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June 9, 2012 • No 242

Vestas keeps tight-lipped as Coalition speculation sparks storm

By **Chrissie Daniels**

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

VESTAS this week refused to be drawn on speculation that Chancellor George Osborne wants to slash wind farm subsidies – and the possible impact it could have on its plans to inject 2,000 new jobs into the local economy.

The Danish firm recently secured planning permission to build an off-shore wind turbine factory in Sheerness.

But it has long threatened that any move by the Government to slash support for alternative energy could see it switch off its intentions to create a new factory on Sheppey.

The speculation emerged in The Observer newspaper last weekend. The report claimed the Treasury wants to cut subsidies to on-shore wind farms by 25 per cent.

Although Vestas' plant would be off-shore, it once again raised questions over the Government's support for such energy solutions.

But the firm refused to be drawn on the comments this week.

A Vestas spokesman told YourSwale: "We are closely following the latest political development in the UK with regard to wind energy, but we will not speculate on how this potentially can affect on-shore or off-shore."

The Government has said previously it wants renewable sources, such as wind, to provide 15 per cent of the UK's energy supply by 2020.

Gordon Henderson, the Conservative MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, said: "I did see some speculation in the weekend newspapers that George Osborne was considering reducing the subsidy

Continued on page 2



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

PARTY IN THE STREETS

FOR THE QUEEN: Communities come together for Diamond Jubilee fun – SEE INSIDE

REGENERATION

Green light for town overhaul

REGENERATION plans to breathe new life into Sittingbourne town centre were given the green light at a council meeting this week.

The decision taken on Wednesday now paves the way for the long-awaited major overhaul of the heart of the town.

PAGE 3

EVENTS

Festival fever starts to build

EXCITEMENT is mounting for this year's Faversham Festival.

Organisers will be hoping the weather was kinder than for the long jubilee weekend, when the annual event gets under way on June 15.

Thousands are expected to join in the popular arts and culture event,

PAGE 7

SPORT

BDO dreams on the oche

TOP players will step up to the oche next week as the eagerly anticipated Sheppey Darts Classic gets under way.

The event can provide players with a springboard to the world championships as well as offering a £7,000 top prize.

It takes place at Merlins in Leysdown.

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JUBILEE

RAISING A GLASS TO THE QUEEN



THE rain did its best to spoil the party atmosphere, but communities still united over the long weekend to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Torrential rain on Sunday played havoc with many plans, but street parties still took place across Swale.

In Bredgar more than 400 people turned up for a street party organised by the parish council, while more than 200 took to the streets in Tunstall for a procession through the town.

Meanwhile in Rodmersham, there was a



big turn-out as residents raised a glass to toast the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

■ For more details and photos of how the county celebrated, turn to pages 12-13.

DEVELOPMENT

Town regeneration plans stride ahead as council signs up

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

IT is all systems go for the biggest transformation of Sittingbourne in a generation after council chiefs signed off the partnership with the Spirit of Sittingbourne consortium.

This means the plans now just need the sign-off from the Secretary of State and work can finally get under way.

Financial appraisals of each phase of the regeneration project were completed and Government approval needed for the necessary land transactions to go through.

On Wednesday night, Swale Borough Council met and agreed the final terms with the consortium.

The regeneration is expected to change the face of Sittingbourne, with the development stretching from the High Street, over the railway line and to Milton Creek.

It will include a Morrisons, a Tesco Extra and a waterside park at Sittingbourne Mill, as well as housing and shops.

Consortium the Spirit of Sittingbourne, made up of Essential Land, which is developing the mill site, developer Cathedral Group and financial fund manager Altyon LLP, said it will boost the local economy.

Cathedral Group said: "We're going to build a new station square to transform arrival in the town. A new cultural quarter, civic quarter with a library, new public realm throughout

the town centre and residential schemes will generate £250m of economic improvement over the next 10 years and will create 1,100 jobs."

A spokesperson confirmed yesterday: "The Spirit of Sittingbourne agreement all went through on Wednesday night.

"Discussions have continued with Kent County Council for them to transfer some high-ways land and their library and Phoenix House sites to us in order to deliver the Spirit of Sittingbourne masterplan."

The council said Network Rail had also agreed to support the significant project and work was being undertaken to issue a licence to construct the public realm and transport hub on its land.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Get set for high winds

HIGH winds are set to batter the borough today, with weather forecasters warning it could bring disruption.

The Met Office issued a yellow alert yesterday warning of southwesterly gales set to sweep across the southern half of England throughout Friday. It warns damage to trees "is likely" and that it could also cause disruption to travel plans. Winds will ease during the day. Heavy rain is also expected.

➔ Players on the oche

THE tenth annual Sheppey Darts Classic steps up to the oche later this month, with the winners securing a chance to qualify for the world championships.

Both the men's and ladies events are Grand Prix events for the British Darts Organisation (BDO). The winners will receive invitations to the 2012 Winmau World Masters and the play-offs for the 2013 Lakeside World Professional. It takes place in Leysdown on June 16-17.

➔ Lifeboat crew alerts

MISERABLE weather didn't prevent the Sheerness lifeboat crews being called upon over the long jubilee weekend.

On Saturday, the inshore lifeboat received an emergency call-out at 8.30pm after reports of a person in the water off Sheerness. It was quickly stood down when reports called through that the person was safely ashore.

And on Monday, a lifeboat had to rescue a small dinghy with one person onboard drifting in the entrance of Queenborough Harbour. It received the call just after noon.

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News

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EVENTS

Festival looks set to hit all the high notes as anticipation builds

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

ARTISTS and musicians will delight audiences this month at the Faversham Festival.

The event runs from June 15-24 and will include concerts, art exhibitions and workshops.

After a successful debut last year, organisers hope this year's event will be better than ever.

Graham Gilbert, festival director, said: "This year we will be building on last year's success with an exciting line-up, some old returning favourites and several new additional events and workshops.

"The surrounding villages will once again be involved to bring together a week of exciting experiences that encompass the arts."

All artists and musicians taking part have local connections or are sponsored by someone in the area.

The Urban Soul Orchestra, who have performed with Leona Lewis and Take That, will be appearing at the festival for the first time on June

17. They will perform Notes from the Past – a concert showcasing music written at the time of key events in the town's history and narrated by local actor Steve Edwin.

Musical performances will also include operetta Mad, Bad and Misunderstood with Tania Holland on June 15, at the Assembly Rooms.

On June 20 the Royal Cinema will show Mike Maloney's Red Sails, a film about the Thames and Sideways Launch, showing the history of Faversham's ship building industry.

The Arden Theatre will host the play Stepping Out by Richard Harris from June 20 to June 23.

Lunchtime concerts will also be taking place in the town centre during the event and there will be fun days on June 23-24.

Festival art exhibitions include Art Matters in the Assembly Rooms, Faversham Camera Club at the Guildhall and school students' art and photography at Creek Creative, Abbey Street.

■ For more information visit www.favershamfestival.org.uk.



SOUNDS

GOOD: The Urban Soul Orchestra, who have performed with Take That, will be one of the highlights of this year's festival

ACCIDENT

Man fell through concrete roof

A MAN in his 60s was rushed to hospital after falling through a roof on Wednesday.

He was believed to have been standing on the reinforced concrete roof of an outbuilding when it collapsed causing him to fall four metres.

An ambulance and air ambulance were called to the property in Primrose Lane, Bredagr at 12.30pm and he was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital by road. He suffered a serious cut his arm, but his condition was not life threatening.

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News

HEALTH

Asbestos visits to ensure our workplaces are safe

By James Benjamin
yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

HEALTH officers will be visiting workplaces across Sittingbourne this summer in a bid to ensure asbestos is posing no risk to staff.

The council say that every day, thousands of workers are gambling with their lives by working on or in buildings, built before 2000, where asbestos may still be present.

Those responsible for maintenance of a workplace have legal responsibilities to manage them so that the health of employees and anyone who may disturb the structure, such as contractors, are not put at risk.

In order to ensure safety for those in Swale, council environmental health officers will be in workplaces to look at how asbestos is being managed.

Officers will give advice but may also take further action if there is a risk to health.

Peter Lincoln, commercial team manager in environmen-



RESPONSIBILITY: Employers need to protect staff from the risk of asbestos-related illness

priority, our aim is to make those who are responsible know what is required of them to effectively manage asbestos in their buildings and take action to do so."

Those responsible must:
■ Ensure a suitable and sufficient assessment is carried out as to whether asbestos is or is liable to be present on the premises.

■ Assess the condition of any asbestos-containing materials to determine what action, if any, needs to be taken.

■ Establish a plan for managing the risk from asbestos.

■ Take remedial action where necessary.

To help with meeting legal requirements, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have produced an interactive online guide, see www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/managing/index.htm for details.

Swale Borough Council's commercial environmental health team can also be contacted, on 01795 417386.

tal health at the council, said "Asbestos is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK. As part of a national

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CHARITY

Queen's Award for dedicated efforts by hospice volunteers

By Dean Kilpatrick
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CHILDREN'S hospice Demelza has been awarded the highest charitable accolade by the Queen as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was given to the Bobbing-based charity in recognition of the work that volunteers do. Demelza has more than 1,200 people give up their time for free.

The award, which is perceived as the equivalent of an MBE for charities, was created in 2000, and Demelza said it was thrilled by the accolade.

Chief executive officer Steve Hoy said: "I am truly delighted at the honour bestowed upon our committed group of volunteers. This accolade, awarded in the year Her Majesty celebrates her Diamond Jubilee, gives us enormous pride in the achievements of our volunteers in supporting the care we provide to life-limited children.

TUNE IN TO THE 80S FOR LATEST FUNDRAISING EFFORT

FOR some, listening to the musical excesses of the 1980s is either a pleasure or a cause of some genuine distress.

But next month the hits of the decade will be played for 24-hours to help a good cause. Fundraisers Vince Maple and Glen Hogwood will be spinning the best music from the 1980s at a fundraising event next month – with all money going to Demelza.

Mr Maple, who is also a Medway councillor, represents the Chatham ward in which Demelza Phillips – the 24-year-old whose tragic death led to her parents creating the children's hospice – lived.

He explained: "Demelza does some amazing work for families and young people in Medway and across the south east. I'm sure people will be as generous as possible in supporting the event which will mean Demelza can continue to help add life to days when sadly you cannot add days to life."

The 24-hour event will take place from 1am on Friday, July 13, to 1am on Saturday, July 14, at the Stanley Ballroom in the St George Hotel in Chatham.

The idea came from Mr Hogwood, who runs the 80slegends.com website.

He said: "The range of music means there will be something for everyone. "Whether it is Duran Duran or Joe Dolce, A-ha or Bucks Fizz, if it's 80s we will be playing it."

Visit www.justgiving.com/Hairy-Vince-The-Hog to sponsor the event.



CARING: Volunteers are back bone of the successful hospice

the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service committee and a vice president of Demelza, said: "I have known for a long time about the volunteers' terrific work, but it was really special to see my colleagues unanimously recommend Demelza for an award which is not only part of the honours system but the highest group award in the voluntary sector."

Demelza provides services for children suffering life-limiting illness and their parents.

Volunteers work across a range of the organisation's offices, serving its sites in Kent and south London and 19 shops in Kent and East Sussex.

A spokesman for Demelza adds: "Our services are funded largely by voluntary donations. Fundraising volunteers support our efforts to ensure the hospice has sustainable income streams to meet demands and invest in our service for the needs of future children and young people."

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News

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BUDGET

Caravan tax fight is not over yet

CARAVAN site owners in Sheppey are still unhappy despite the government making a u-turn on a controversial 20 per cent VAT hike.

New static caravans were set to have the full amount of VAT placed on new purchases, but the treasury has decided to reduce the taxation to five per cent after campaigners protested against the proposal.

There were fears the VAT hike would hamper Sheppey's tourism trade, but the news of a cut in the proposed tax still isn't enough for some caravan site owners.

John Sissons of Priory Hill Holiday Parks said: "Zero per cent would have been excellent, but it seems the government is hell bent on taxing people left, right and centre. If it had been 20 per cent, it would have seen the caravan sales industry and parks suffer badly.

"I think we will be continuing the fight because the five per cent tax is still going to have an effect on these businesses."

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson, who called the plans "the most ill-conceived and badly thought-out of all the proposals in the budget", said he was delighted by the decision: "I welcome this news which would have affected so many of my constituents, particularly on Sheppey. The Chancellor's u-turn proves that these ideas put forward by HMRC were bonkers in the first place.

"I would like to thank the holiday park owners on Sheppey who petitioned against the VAT on caravans."

JUBILEE

Tree planting to help community honour Queen's anniversary

By James Benjamin

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

A 12-foot silver birch tree has been planted in Bobbing by MP Gordon Henderson on behalf of his constituents in Sittingbourne and Sheppey.

As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Conservative politician teamed up with the Woodland Trust which is encouraging the planting of six million trees across the UK. Already, more than half of that target has been reached.

Mr Henderson planted the Diamond Jubilee tree in the grounds of the Garden of England Crematorium.

The Tory MP said: "This year is a special one for the Queen celebrating her Diamond Jubilee and so I wanted to plant a tree on behalf of my constituents,



so they can all feel part of the event and have a lasting memorial, which will be submitted into the Royal Record."

Inspired by the discovery of

the Royal Record of King George VI's Coronation, which details thousands of celebration trees planted in his honour, the Woodland Trust is creating a new record of trees planted in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee. It will form part on online map as well as being presented to the Queen.

Kevin Wardle, general manager at the crematorium said: "We are delighted to be supporting Gordon Henderson's initiative to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Her Majesty's loyal devotion to the nation over the past 60 years.

"The planting of a tree by Mr Henderson on behalf of his constituents as part of the Woodland Trust campaign provides a fitting tribute for the occasion. The crematorium is pleased to be able to provide the location and contribute a



natural stone commemorative boulder."

Anyone who would like to visit the crematorium to specially view the tree, must book an appointment by calling 01795 432370.

PLANTING: Kevin Wardle and Gordon Henderson by the tree

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News

CRIME

Police officers march into isle's online beat meeting to help crime crackdown

By James Benjamin

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

AN online beat meeting – allowing those in Sheppey to quiz their neighbourhood police officers via the internet – takes place next week.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 13, from 7.30-9pm.

Those with a query about policing or crime can visit the police website and submit a question. Sergeant Carli Deacon and police community support officers Robert Holmes, Terry Hanlon and Katie Roberts will answer the questions during the virtual meeting.

Those not wishing to pose a question are still welcome to log-on and watch instead.

PCSO Terry Hanlon said: "Online meetings have proved very popular in the past and we are hoping for another good turn out."

"The meetings have been a



MEETING: Police will answer questions during the web meeting

success across the county, as they are an easy way for us to engage with residents and for people to ask questions without having to leave the comfort of their own homes.

"We are looking forward to updating residents on our work over the last few months."

To get involved in the meeting, visit www.kent.police.uk and click on 'chat online to

your local officers' in the 'useful links' box.

Those who would like to meet their officers in person are able to do so every Monday from 1-2pm at the officers' weekly surgery at the Sheerness Gateway.

Residents can also keep up to date with the work of the neighbourhood team by following @kentpoliceswale on Twitter.

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Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

**SWEETENER:** Cakes of all shapes and sizes were made to keep the hungry street party revellers fed**A TOAST:** Glasses and umbrellas were raised during the numerous street celebrations held around Kent**FUN AND GAMES:** An impromptu game of street skittles and jenga help keep party-goers entertained

DIAMOND JUBILEE

It might rain on our parade, but nothing will stop us holding a jubilee street party

By Dean Kilpatrick

dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

A SEA of red, white and blue washed across the county over the bank holiday weekend as Kent celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style.

Events took place in every corner of Kent, from street parties to special services, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne.

Despite the wet weather, organisers battled on to make sure the once-in-a-lifetime weekend wasn't remembered as a damp squib.

Glenda Morling, who held a party in Halfpeny Close in Maidstone, said: "The rain didn't last long; we had a downpour of about 20 minutes, but everyone had their gazebos up."

"It was a bit cold too, but we carried on through it – it was a really good day."

The community also got together in Medway, with at least 30 street parties taking place in the towns. One of those took place in The Close in Rochester and co-organiser Lynne Last said more than 250 residents joined in.

She said: "It was great to see the community coming together. Seeing the kids playing in the street like we used to was just the best thing."

"We had cake competitions, a best jubilee fancy dress contest, and a raffle to help pay for it all."

The newly-formed Gravesend Women's Institute held a jubilee picnic lunch in Gordon Gardens, and president Hilary Jones said: "Ages ranged from four to 94, and everyone had a good time. There was plenty to eat and drink, including mountains of delicious cakes and those attending donated generously to a collection for the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust."

Friendly street rivalry took place in Stephen's Road in Tunbridge Wells, as residents took on neighbouring Hopwood Gardens in a tug-of-war contest, which the hosts won convincingly 3-0.

The competition was part of a series of special events including a Routemaster bus entertaining the children and a samba band performing.

Organiser Cheryl Harrison said: "It was stupendous. People have been talking about it all week – we're gutted it's over really. It was magical."

As well as the 350 street parties held in Kent and Medway, special Diamond Jubilee beacons were lit around the county on Bank Holiday Monday, joining the Commonwealth in lighting a flame as part of the celebrations.

One of the beacons was at Harris HospisCare in Orpington. In the evening, after holding a jubilee fun day, the beacon was lit by volunteer Joan Sloane and was followed by a rendition of the national anthem.

Fundraising manager Christine Davies said: "This was a fabulous evening to celebrate the jubilee. We were honoured to be an official beacon site and the local community really supported the event."

Queenborough Town Council on the Isle of Sheppey, held a community fun day at Castle Connections.

And although the weather meant activities had to take place inside, Chrissie Williams said: "It went really well, although the weather was atrocious. We made the most of it despite the tradi-

**CENTRE OF ATTENTION:** Parties held up and down the county for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

tional British weather – we all had a good time."

Ramsgate held a tea party for hundreds of children which went down well despite a couple of downpours, with jelly and ice-cream a particular favourite on the menu.

Mayor of Ramsgate Cllr David Green said: "The tea party for more than 300 children achieved a great success, despite the British weather. This was a real town effort, funded by Ramsgate Town Council and Thanet District Council and supported by too many town folk to mention individually."

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GIRLS' POWER: The newly-formed Gravesend Women's Institute enjoyed a day of jubilee celebrations



CHEERS, YOUR MAJESTY: Jubilee party in Rodmersham is in full swing as locals toast the Queen



SALUTE: Tunbridge Wells people enjoy themselves, while crowds watch the Harris HospisCare beacon



ACCESS TO PARTY ONLY: Around 350 streets were sealed off around the county for street parties as Kent joined the nation for a right royal knees-up



RIDE ON TIME: A Routemaster bus was at Stephen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, as part of the Queen's celebrations, while villager Joyce Gore helped plant the Diamond Jubilee tree at St Nicholas at Wade



Comment & Opinion

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OPINION

We should all say no to abuse

Too many people suffer domestic abuse, and though action is being taken – everyone must make violence unacceptable, insists **Cllr Mike O'Brien**

FOR far too long, domestic violence has been prevalent in our society.

It is a serious health and criminal justice issue and the statistics are shocking – with a quarter of all women and one in six men affected by domestic abuse in their lifetimes.

This is an issue which blights far too many lives, leads to family breakups and has a long term impact on both women and men.

And it is sadly a leading cause of death amongst women aged 19-44, with two women a week dying from abuse. This is higher than from cancer or road accidents.

In Medway alone, more than 4,000 domestic abuse incidents are reported each year to Kent Police – that equates to an average of 11 reports a day, every day of the year.

But this is probably only a fraction of those affected. We know that many victims of do-

mestic abuse don't call the police, don't know what support they can get, and are not always able to give a name to the abuse they are experiencing.

We need to let victims know they are not alone and there are people there to help.

Over the last 30 years domestic abuse has gone from a subject that was in the main not spoken about, to one that is now a focus of attention not only by the voluntary sector but also by government and other statutory agencies.

Despite the current reductions in public finances, we in Medway are prioritising this because it is too important to ignore. It is also linked to so many other social and community safety issues. For example, there is strong evidence that violence in the home influences youth violence in the streets.

In Medway, two independent domestic advice advocates have been created to assist vic-

tims and keep them and their children safe. One is in the specialist domestic violence court at Medway Magistrates Court, the other is in A&E at Medway Maritime Hospital.

Working with the Medway Community Safety Partnership, we are reaching out to all the other partners involved in tackling domestic abuse, including schools and health services so that a multi-agency group can work at senior level to tackle the challenges of cross-agency working.

Under recent changes in the law, the Community Safety Partnership is now responsible for reviewing cases of homicides from abuse, so that we can ensure enough is being done to address this issue and to prevent further abuses.

I recently addressed a service in Rochester Cathedral, given to commemorate victims of domestic abuse. The service was attended by many agencies



6699

More women die from domestic abuse than cancer or road accidents

working to support victims of domestic abuse across Kent and Medway, along with victims and survivors.

I recognise the fantastic work done by the voluntary agencies and Medway Domestic Abuse Forum in working with clients to support them, as well as the success of the Freedom programme, which provides information to women on this issue.

There is still a long way to go to ensure all people affected by domestic abuse are able to receive the support they need and for our communities and society to speak out against domestic abuse, to help effect change and make domestic abuse unacceptable not only now but in the future.

We must all say no to domestic abuse.

■ Cllr Mike O'Brien is Medway Council's portfolio holder for community safety and customer contact.

KOS COMMENT

Jubilee's right royal knees-up just the tonic

DESPITE the rain trying to dampen the mood, Kent's jubilee celebrations were even bigger and better than expected.

People embraced the party spirit at more than 350 street parties, using gazebos and umbrellas to shelter from the downpours.

Thousands went to London to enjoy the festivities – and even with the Duke of Edinburgh's health scare, it was clear to see that the Queen and the royal family enjoyed themselves.

No matter what your views on the monarchy, the jubilee was a chance for friends, families and neighbours to be together.

In a time of such economic despair, the extended holiday was a much-needed boost for the country.

Get used to the ban

AS incredible as it seems given the wet weather we are having, it looks like Kent could be one of the few counties still under a hosepipe ban this summer.

Most water companies are keeping the ban in place as underground resources remain low – leaving gardeners hoping the rain stays with us.

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Switched off by power brokers

WE ARE warned there will be a power production shortfall in the not too distant future and that wind farms and solar panels could be our saviour.

Already our manufacturing base has been shifted abroad and our small businesses are being stifled by outside bureaucracy, meanwhile, Germany has kept its manufacturing industries.

They fully realise wind farms and solar panels will not produce the necessary power, therefore they are building a series of coal-fired generating stations – as is China.

So what are we left with?

When gales blow wind turbines have to be switched off as they may shatter. On the other hand, solar panels only work when the Sun is shining.

The grand centralised dictatorial plan will render us back to foot and donkey power.

In the meantime, we are financially bleeding to death by paying millions of pounds in obedience to un-elected, largely unknown commissioners from beyond our shores.

Meanwhile, our children are being taught in our schools how good this sick union is and how much [they say] we are getting from it. How could we have been so deceived?

J Moore, Tunbridge Wells

Young must be nurtured

KENT Green Party will be discussing practical measures to meet the school places shortfall with speaker Becky Matthews from STEP, the campaign against selective education in Kent, at its June meeting in Wye, near Ashford.

It is alarming that Kent County Council has to find 10,700 primary school places and two new secondary schools in the next four years. Some 800 children in Kent

could not get a place at one of their three preferred primary schools, this April.

Selective schools distributed unevenly across Kent and Medway have made secondary education as much a transport policy as an education policy, with children spending large parts of each day travelling significant distances to and from school.

This could have been avoided if Kent and Medway secondary schools were all comprehensive. Coupled with fundamental inefficiencies in children's services and declining youth services, the overall picture for young people is one of neglect.

There has even been maladministration in the provision of grammar school places in Tunbridge Wells.

It is disturbing that four out of every 10 headteachers say their school buildings are unfit for purpose nationwide.

The Government is adamant academy schools do not have to keep to current healthy

school food standards, undoing years of progress.

The Green Party is committed to maintaining education whilst paying off the deficit through a fair tax system.

**Stuart Jeffery,
Chair of Kent Green Party**

Socking it to slow internet

LIKE many people in Thanet, I suffered from a very low broadband download speed, in my case, with BT.

After several fruitless conversations with technicians in India and being given a new hub, nothing improved.

However, a visit from a BT engineer discovered the reason for my slow speed.

The master phone socket, which had been fitted when my house was built, I assume, was unsuitable for modern usage and was replaced.

My download speed has increased substantially, so if you are suffering, as I was, do

try changing your phone socket and using ADSL filters in all the phone sockets around the house. This certainly worked in my case.

Paddy Earp, Broadstairs



Airport flies in face of reality

THERE really is no reason to spend billions on a new Thames airport.

As I see it there are already plenty of alternatives that would reduce the number of road miles travelled to catch a flight, rather than making Kent and Essex the next blighted part of the UK purely on Boris Johnson's need to have a badge put around his neck.

If anyone thinks an airport would mean lots of new long-term jobs they are very much mistaken. Building the thing would require 20,000-plus

builders, but most would probably come from cheap European labour or the North, not local.

They would all need homes, so forget any chance of finding a green field or park in Kent – they will have to be built on.

So yes, we would see a local building boom, but then what?

I have been to most airports in the UK and many, if not all, would be better expanded to support larger/more aircraft rather than wiping out Kent. This would shorten road journeys which in these green times we should be encouraging. Why is it necessary for so many of our flights to be from Heathrow or Gatwick? Spread them around the UK.

Indeed, why do we need to encourage more flights in any case? It does not make the UK any more a growth economy.

The manufacturing industry of the UK has all but stopped which is why we end up with 'no-idea politicians' giving us schemes and money wastage projects to make us feel they are doing something.

I don't think you can send an email to the migratory birds to tell them not to come back either. They will be there no matter what.

I don't think anyone really has an idea of what the water or power requirements would be to build the airport or to provide its future needs, as well of those of the area that will be decimated by gross house building.

Forget rain catchment. We would need at least two desalination plants and two power stations. Ahh, but that's jobs isn't it? Well no not really. Labourers, perhaps 1,000, but all the skilled jobs to run either type of plants would come from outside the area. And don't forget once everything has been built where will the on-going jobs for all these people come from?

I hope the sheer cost of this idiotic plan makes people stop.

Whatever the estimate they come up with you'll have to double it. The cost to the destruction of Kent will be wholesale, so we might as well concrete over the South East and be done with it.

This will ruin Kent even more than the current London overspill plans along the Thames corridor. Oh and, of course, those very house building schemes will be under the flight path of the new airport. Yet more sense.

Dave Tutt, Chatham

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



Worth going the extra mile to get missing 5p

Q MY employer is paying 40p a mile when I use my own car on business, rather than the recommended 45p a mile.

Are you able to say how I can claim the additional 5p?

A THERE is no legal minimum that an employer has to pay when you use your car for business purposes.

But HM Revenue & Customs has set 45p a mile as the amount you can be reimbursed by your employer without facing any tax bill. This tax exemption applies for the first 10,000 miles of business driving each year. Above this, the taxman will allow 25p a mile.

If your employer pays more, then the surplus is taxable.

Your problem is your employer does not pay the full amount. This means you can claim tax relief on the 'missing' 5p a mile. The cash value of this tax relief depends on the rate at which you yourself pay tax.

For example, if you pay tax at 40pc, the tax relief is worth 2p a mile in your pocket.

But here's another thought. Why does your employer pay 40p a mile? My guess is that this rate was set a few years ago, when the Revenue exemption was itself 40p a mile.

It might be worth telling your boss that the taxman increased the figure to 45p in April last year.

Q IT IS likely that I shall be made redundant. I have been told I am entitled to three months' pay in lieu of notice, a few thousands pounds due under a bonus scheme, and then an additional £20,000 redundancy payment.

The figures I have been given show that tax will be due, yet someone I know who was made redundant from a different company insists he got £30,000 and paid no tax.

How can he get £30,000 and pay no tax, while I stand to get less than £30,000 yet will pay tax?

A THE basic rule is that redundancy payments up to £30,000 are exempt from tax.

However, not all the money you are expecting is classed as redundancy pay.

If your contract of employment entitles you to pay in lieu of notice, this is taxed in the same way as if you had worked normally during the notice period.

Similarly, if you had carried on in your job and received bonuses in the usual way, then that money would have been taxed, too.

All that escapes tax is any payment that is linked only to your redundancy, and not to the notice period, the bonus scheme or anything else – such as holiday pay – that you would have received if the job had lasted.

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



And that is why only your £20,000 will sidestep the taxman.

Q I REACHED 65 in February. I have a small private pension plan, and I intended to delay drawing the pension in the hope the fund would grow.

However, the pension company says annuity rates for men will be dropping in December, to bring them into line with rates for women. Are you aware of this, and how is it likely to affect me?

A I AM aware of this new rule, which will affect every man who retires after December unless he is lucky enough to be in one of the few remaining final salary pension schemes.

Everyone who saves for retirement in a 'defined contribution' scheme should understand that they have their own individual pension pot.

When they reach retirement, that pot is used to buy an annuity – a pension for life. Annuities are based on how long the pension provider thinks you will live.

Pension providers have always given men a better annuity rate because men die younger than women, bringing the annuity to an end.

The EU did not like this. Officials in Brussels regarded it as sex discrimination, so they are making it illegal from December.

Annuity rates change frequently, so nobody can predict the exact impact.

As an example, though, £10,000 would currently buy a 65-year-old man a flat rate pension of £587 a year from Legal & General, while a woman would get £562. Everyone in the industry expects male rates to fall at the end of the year.

Q I HAVE used up my Isa allowance, but would like to put £2,000 into an instant access savings account. Which pays the best interest?

A THE Online Saver account from Coventry Building Society (www.coventrybuildingsociety.co.uk) pays 3.15pc on £1 upwards, with no notice needed for withdrawals.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Clearer information is needed for customers should bank collapse

By **Adam Aiken**

MyMoney24 editor

THE body behind the financial services savings safety net has urged banks to give clearer information to customers about how much of their cash will be protected if the provider goes bust.

Under plans outlined by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), financial providers are to be compelled to display notices in branches and on their websites in a bid to make people more aware of deposits of up to £85,000 are protected if a bank goes bust.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), which protects consumers when banks fail, said the plans were a step in the right direction, but it urged firms to go beyond the FSA's minimum requirements.

Building societies and credit unions will also need to display posters and stickers, and foreign banks with branches in the UK which are not covered by the scheme have to state this as well as saying which other national scheme is providing protection.

"The banking crisis shows how important it is for consumers to have clear information about FSCS protection," said FSCS chief executive Mark Neale.

"We never again want to witness the run on a bank because people do not know their money is protected.

"Since then, the industry has improved the quality of information it gives to consumers about FSCS.

"However, it needs to do much more to provide clear, accurate information about the protection we provide. This is essential to building consumer confidence, and is not limited to deposits. It is something that is normal in other parts of the world."

The FSCS protects consumers if banks, building societies or credit



SAFE: More needs to be done to protect customers' cash if provider goes bust

unions go under. The safety net has paid out more than £26 billion in compensation to more than 4.5 million people since 2001.

"We have been working with major firms in a bid to get them to go the extra mile in building awareness of the scheme," said Mr Neale.

"We are grateful for their support and hope they will lead the way. We encourage all banks, building societies and credit unions to have stickers on display, posters and information in branch, and on their websites.

"Go the extra mile. Tell consumers about the FSCS. It is good for consumer confidence. And that is good for the industry, too."

The FSCS recently launched a £4 million publicity campaign in a bid to raise the scheme's profile, but it has since acknowledged that awareness has not been raised to the

levels hoped. The scheme covers savings up to £85,000 for single accounts and £170,000 for joint accounts if an institution goes under.

While the scheme covers deposits held with UK banks and subsidiaries of foreign banks which operate in the UK, it does not cover money held with UK branches of European banks, which are covered by the relevant compensation scheme in the country where the bank has its head office.

The compensation limit applies to money lost per banking licence and not per individual brand, meaning consumers who want to remain within the limit have to know which banking group owns any individual brand.

■ To find out which licence covers which bank or building society, visit www.mymoney24.co.uk.

Falling house prices mean many homeowners may be due thousands in inheritance tax rebates

THOUSANDS of Britons may have paid more inheritance tax (IHT) on residential property than they should have.

IHT – which is based on the value of the property at point of death – can be reclaimed if the property sells for less within four years.

With house prices falling by more than 10 per cent over the last four years, tax specialists at NFU Mutual said that up to £90 million in tax

could be reclaimable. This equates to an average rebate of £4,260 among an estimated 21,000 estates that included residential property over the past four years.

People who inherited between June, 2008, and February, 2009, and between June, 2010, and August, 2011, are the most likely to be eligible to get money back.

"Many people don't realise they can claim back IHT if the property

they inherit sells for less than it was valued at during probate," said NFU Mutual's Sean McCann.

"And with house prices generally falling over the last four years, thousands of people could still be able to claim back any such overpayment."

NFU Mutual's calculations were made using a combination of IHT breakdowns from HM Revenue & Customs and monthly house price data produced by the Land Registry.



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You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Business Week

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Lack of credit and withdrawal of overdrafts crippling small firms

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BRITAIN'S small businesses are continuing to suffer because of a three-year lending drought and many are unable to obtain credit at any cost, the Bank of England has warned.

And to make matters worse, many are having their overdraft facilities withdrawn, the BoE says – meaning a cashflow problem is much more likely to mean closure.

Current figures reveal that more than 50 firms across the UK close each day – and Kent businesses say the lack of bank capital is holding back expansion plans that would create jobs, stimulate the economy and increase cashflow.

Some firms that managed to get a loan said they had seen the interest rate increased, while fees levied on loans had also gone up, the BoE's report on business conditions found.

The report states: "Some firms had responded to tighter credit conditions by seeking alternative forms of finance, from wealthy individuals or institutional investors, such as pension funds.



'DOUBLE-DIP DANGER': Pam Loch

"It had become harder to secure long-term funding from banks, increasing the frequency of re-negotiations and attendant charges."

More than 50 companies every day are collapsing, according to a separate study. A total of 1,564 failed in April, and numbers are far higher among

smaller firms, the survey by information firm Experian found. Of the total, it said 688 employed 10 people or fewer.

Toby Perkins, the shadow small business minister, said: "Businesses are going under every day. Too many are struggling to get the finance they need to grow and take on extra employees."

He also slammed the Government's answer to the credit crunch, the National Loans Guarantee Scheme, as "failing to make a difference".

Christopher Shaw, chief executive of alternative finance firm Platform Black, said: "This latest Bank report confirms once and for all what any company director knows. Small and medium-sized firms are not getting credit and, worse still, are having their overdrafts cut or pulled. In the rare cases where credit is available, it is getting more expensive.

"We are experiencing a mixed reaction at the moment to confidence in the economy from our clients, contacts and suppliers. There is still a great deal of caution and we have been involved in advising on restructurings again where businesses are aiming to reduce their headcount. However, we do have many

clients who are recruiting again and recognising it could be a good time to expand through acquisitions or mergers rather than sitting still."

Pam Loch is managing partner of Tunbridge Wells-based Loch Associates Employment Lawyers as well as being president of the West Kent Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

She said: "From my involvement with businesses, I've spoken with directors and business-owners who are keen to expand their business but simply can't access the capital to do so, despite the Bank base rate being the lowest it's been in decades. The reluctance of financial institutions to lend to businesses due to economic uncertainty is quickly becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy in itself for a double-dip recession.

"In our capacity as employment lawyers, we're aware that clients still feel there is a need to reduce their overheads as they face rising costs. The Government's pledge to inject £75 billion into the economy is a timely boost to business confidence, but we do need even more measures put in place to help the SMEs at the heart of the economy."

TRANSPORT

Travel firm set to cut carbon emissions

CHALKWELL Coach Hire & Tours is carrying out a full commercial trial on Energenics fuel-saving additive Envirox across the whole of its fleet of 61 coaches and buses.

An additive dosing unit will be installed at the company's main depot in Murston, near Sittingbourne, and the bulk diesel fuel-storage tank will be treated with Envirox for an initial nine-month period.

Envirox is based on a well-known oxidation catalyst used widely in catalytic converters. The material has been re-engineered using nanotechnology to allow it to be delivered as a diesel fuel treatment. This ensures a cleaner burn within the combustion chamber, resulting in improved fuel efficiency and lower emissions.

Clive Eglinton, managing director, said: "As well as the potential financial benefits, we see this as a means of improving our environmental performance. We are targeting an average fuel saving of 4 per cent, equivalent to 58 tonnes of CO₂ on an annual basis. Already 28 vehicles in our fleet have diesel particulate filters fitted, but we expect to remove a further 27kg of particulate emissions per year from the rest of the fleet through the use of Envirox."

Mike Attfield, of Energenics, said: "We are delighted to welcome Chalkwell as a customer. This will be a valuable opportunity to validate Envirox in a mixed coaching and bus operation."

AWARDS

Now is the time to ensure your business talent is recognised

A BUSINESS-awards event has been launched at a gala reception.

Bromley Business Awards 2012, the second in the annual series organised by South London Business, was launched at Biggin Hill airport, the title sponsor for this venture that rewards and celebrates dynamic and innovative businesses.

Robert Walters, business-development manager at Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, said the airport company was strongly in favour of the purpose of the awards and pleased to be associated with the new season series as principal sponsor.

"The goal is to promote business in Bromley and to highlight those companies that are taking extra steps to help provide employment and

prosperity while demonstrating outstanding innovation and skills," said Walters.

More information on the 2012 Bromley Business awards can be found at www.bromleybusinessawards.co.uk or on 0208 253 4256.

Firms can be requested by emailing awards@southlondonbusiness.co.uk;



LAUNCHED: Nominate for an award now

closing date is Friday, September 7. The awards will be announced and presented on Thursday, October 25.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Coach-carrier claims green tourism award

EUROTUNNEL has been awarded for its commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of coach-carriers.

At the 2012 Coach Tourism Awards Eurotunnel Le Shuttle won the inaugural Coach Tourism Green Award.

The awards brought together more than 360 professionals and members of the coach tourism community, and Eurotunnel's prize was awarded by readers of Coach Monthly.

Eurotunnel is the only cross-Channel operator to carry out an annual carbon audit and has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 56 per cent since 2006. Le Shuttle continues to innovate to save energy, protect air quality, manage waste and water and control noise.

Jo Willacy, Eurotunnel commercial director, said: "Eurotunnel Le Shuttle is delighted to be recognised for the continued efforts of its teams to minimise the impact of its operations on the environment and to offer passengers the greenest way to cross the Channel by coach.

"Our latest innovation, which is proving very popular, is an eco-comparison tool that allows coach operators to calculate their carbon savings when taking Le Shuttle."

The editor of Coach Monthly, Stuart Render, said: "Eurotunnel Le Shuttle plays a key role in delivering a high quality of service to coach operators across the UK."

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FOCUS ON CHARITY

A FOCUS group has shown its support for charity.

Kent Construction Focus Group, which holds regular breakfast meetings, presented Pilgrims Hospices with a cheque for £2,300 raised on a sponsored cycle-ride between Pilgrims Hospice sites.

KCFG is a forum of Kent companies involved in the construction, design and

development sector – its aim is to highlight the construction expertise available in the county and to promote the best of building and civil-engineering projects.

The next meeting is at the London Golf Club on Tuesday with county-council leader Paul Carter. Further details are available on the KCFG website www.kcfg.co.uk.



Skills drought the biggest barrier to recruiting staff

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A LACK of skilled applicants continues to plague businesses, according to a new report.

The latest quarterly Tracking UK Recruitment report by professional staffing recruitment consultancy Barclay Meade shows more than half (54 per cent) of firms citing candidate skill shortage as their biggest barrier to recruitment.

According to the report, the first quarter of 2012 saw a 10 per cent rise in the number of local firms whose plans to strengthen their workforce were hampered by a dearth of candidates possessing the skills required to fill a vacancy.

Meanwhile, more than a third of bosses (34 per cent) in the South East feel the expense of hiring new staff is prohibitively high, a rise of 19 per cent from Q4 2011.

But, despite this, the report by Barclay Meade – part of the AIM-listed recruitment business Matchtech Group PLC – revealed almost two out of five (37 per cent) bosses in the South East were more confident about recruiting than they were in the previous quarter. Just 7 per cent declared themselves 'less confident'.

Overall hiring levels among firms in the region dipped slightly throughout the three months to March. Just over 40 per cent of business-owners said recruitment levels were similar to those before the financial crisis began in September 2007, although the number operating under a recruitment freeze rose from 17 per cent in Q4 2011 to 22 per cent, the highest level of any region in the UK and considerably higher than the national average of 13 per cent.

Among those firms in the South East that do expect to be hiring in the next quarter, 37 per cent are planning to take on administrative staff; almost a quarter (24 per cent) aim to recruit graduates; and one in 10 expects to appoint senior managers. Encouragingly, two-thirds of firms in the region said recruitment activity was to support business growth plans.

Barclay Meade's Tracking UK Recruitment 2012 Q1 report also revealed:

■ Two-thirds of businesses in the UK feel restricted by the Government's employment legislation and would like to see changes made to help them fulfil labour solutions.

■ While experts continue to debate the future economic landscape, the general consensus among the UK business community is that the outlook is hopeful. Almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of firms are 'cautiously optimistic' about



WRITE-OFFS? More than half of firms said skills shortages were their biggest barrier to recruitment

trading conditions during the next six months.

■ The expense of hiring new staff is an increasing problem for employers, with 52 per cent reporting it as a barrier to recruitment in the first three months of 2012, up from 20 per cent in Q4 2011.

Nigel Lynn, managing director of Barclay Meade, said: "The jobs market in the South East took a small backwards step in the first three months of 2012, and the region is home to the largest number of firms operating under a recruitment freeze."

"But the findings from our report suggest their plans and growth ambitions are being hindered by a lack of adequately-skilled staff, which is a huge concern. Investing in talent can improve the commercial value of any organisation, but this is obviously dependent on that talent being available in the first place."

"Yet despite hiring activity falling, business outlook for the next six months remains positive across the region, illustrated by the increase in the number who are optimistic about trading conditions over the next six months."

OLYMPICS

Planning ahead is the way to go

WITH the Olympic torch relay making its way around the UK, the final countdown to the London Games is well and truly on.

Which means now is the time employers should pre-empt potential difficulties by planning ahead, says Melissa Edmond, right, of leading regional law firm Furley Page.



"The Olympics have the potential to lift employees' spirits at a time when the economic climate threatens morale and it would be a shame to miss such a great opportunity," said Edmond, a solicitor in the employment-law team. "Time off and time-wasting are likely to be the main issues employers encounter."

"Holiday requests will be high as the Games fall within the busy summer period and staff may request time off to volunteer if lucky enough to have been selected as one of the 70,000 Games Makers."

Edmond will be cheering on the torch relay when it passes the offices of Furley Page in Canterbury in July.

She advised that consideration should be given to how holiday policies would be operated and the easiest method to avoid complaints might be a first-come-first-served basis. When it comes to volunteering, employees have no legal right to time off work for this, so employers may ask staff to take annual or unpaid leave.

Edmond added: "Holiday requests and unauthorised absences may be minimised if employers provide television coverage for key events – subject to having the appropriate licence, of course – or if employees are allowed to watch the Games on their computers."

"Such arrangements will hopefully foster a positive atmosphere in the workplace, but reasonable limits should be set out."

"It would be unrealistic to suggest that the biggest sporting event in the world will not cause employers any disruption. However, planning ahead should help."

"To be the host of the Games is a once-in-a-lifetime event and the opportunity to engage the workforce and encourage motivation through it should not be missed."

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Training, courses and careers

Bluewater college for students shopping for computer and engineering courses

A NEW university technical college is set to open in Kent called UTC Bluewater, but its students won't be specialising in shopping.

Some 15 UTCs around the UK have been approved by the Government, and each one will specialise in a particular area.

For instance, Warwick UTC, supported by Jaguar Land Rover will concentrate on engineering. And Heathrow UTC with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic behind them, will do aviation engineering.

UTC Bluewater, sponsored by Eurostar and Bluewater, will be doing computer science and engineering.

It has been put forward by the Leigh Technology Academy in Dartford.

Leigh Academies Trust chief executive Frank Green, said: "The range of people and organisations we have been able to bring together across our community have been united in the need for the development of a high quality, technically based education.

"It will provide the level of technical skills as well as academic learning required for the regeneration of the manufacturing base in the borough of



BLUEWATER: Famous for shops, it is now home to a university technical college

Dartford and in Kent Thameside, which has such a proud history of pioneering scientific and technological developments.

"The opportunity for young people, both girls and boys, to make a change at 14 or 16 to an outstanding technical education will provide more choice for them so more students can access the education and

training that best suits their talents.

"We see this as an opportunity to be a significant part of the re-building of the manufacturing capacity as the development of the vast business and commercial space around Ebbsfleet is developed.

"We have deliberately made manufacturing and computer engineering the two pillars of our UTC, as these are

essential areas for development and growth in the 21st century."

The UTC is being supported by Bluewater, Eurostar, Kenard Engineering, NWKC, Greenwich University, London Chamber of Commerce, RK International, and Caterham Cars.

The idea is the colleges will work with local employers and universities to train more than 20,000 young Brits as engineers and scientists, alongside the usual academic qualifications.

Education minister Lord Hill said: "There is a lot of enthusiasm from employers, universities, pupils and parents for high quality rigorous technical education.

"They provide more choice for children as well as helping provide the kind of highly-skilled technicians our economy needs. The response from employers to UTCs speaks for itself."

But Christine Blower, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said 14 was too young, and added: "Separating 'technical' or 'vocational' education from mainstream schools will lead to a two-tier system with technical schools being seen as the poor cousin."

The ages that will use UTCs are 14-19, rather than 11-18 as in a school, and there is no entrance test for the up to 800 students.

Mr Green said: "They are a radical solution to the inadequate number of technicians and engineers. Students spend two days a week on practical study and three days a week on academic study linking the hand with the mind.

"It is quite intensive. It significantly increases the amount of teaching time, adding a whole extra year of instruction for every two years a student is in the UTC, and extra-curricular activities are compulsory."

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www.kentnews.co.uk **ARCHANT** KOS MEDIA

Free local history training event for teachers as online unit goes live

A NEW partnership initiative is aiming to make teaching local history more engaging for teachers in Kent.

The Canterbury Local Heritage Partnership is hosting a continuing professional development event for teachers on Wednesday, June 27, at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The free half-day event is aimed at sharing best practice for local history studies, bringing together experts from English Heritage, the Historical Association and other partners with teachers and students from four local schools to showcase new ideas and approaches to teaching local history.

The training session will include an expert-led local history continuing professional development session, to coincide with the launch of an online unit on local history created by Andrew Wrenn and English Heritage's education team.

"Teachers often create their teaching plans in

relative isolation, and particularly when you are teaching a subject like local history where there may not be quite as many resources available, it can be quite challenging to create an engaging and stimulating scheme of work," said English Heritage's regional education co-ordinator, Rachel Hudson, who is based at Dover Castle.

"This workshop day will not only give teachers the chance to see some new approaches, but also to talk to other teachers and pupils about what they enjoyed most about their local history studies, which should provide inspiring ideas to implement, both in and outside the classroom.

"Whilst facts may change from town to town, the techniques and ideas can be applied in any location."

The workshop runs from 10am-12.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend can contact Rachel Hudson on rachel.hudson@english-heritage.org.uk or call 01304 204475.

Interns on the fast track at GForces

BEARSTED-based GForces, a web management company for the UK's automotive sector, has received glowing feedback from work-placement students who have taken part in the company's internship scheme.

GForces takes on undergraduates and students from nearby schools, universities and colleges, enrolling them in its Training Academy to gain experience in a wide range of disciplines, including web marketing, graphic design, web development, project and account management, and content and project support.

The academy gives students breadth and depth of real-world experience, and in some cases those

who do well are offered full-time positions.

The new extension to its Caring Lane HQ has enabled GForces to step up the work of its Training Academy.

Some 23 young people have been given internships at GForces over the past 12 months. Many of the internships have been organised in co-operation with the Kent Educational Business Partnership – an organisation which seeks to bring education and business together to create the next-generation of skilled employees.

Intern Camille Thompson: "The internship taught me a huge amount, and best of all, after the month was up I was offered a full-time position."

Schools & education

Pupils organised for competition

A PROTOTYPE computer-based organiser designed and marketed by four Year 10 students has won a business competition run by the Connexions career advice service.

The Big Business Pitch was run at The Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School Federation in Ramsgate and it generated a range of interesting and innovative ideas from the young competitors.

Staff member Eunice Scott-Smith co-ordinated the event. She explained: "Each group had to produce an A4 poster for their product or service, a financial statement, a marketing plan, and a prototype."

"During the competition weeks Connexions provided motivational speakers including Moira Cameron, the first woman Beefeater at the Tower of London, Paul Chandler who is the marketing manager for Scalextric at Margate-based Hornby Hobbies, and Beverley Aitken from Maidstone-based chartered accountants Day, Smith and Hunter.

"Six teams made it through to the school final where they had to present their product or service to a panel of judges and their peers.

"The judges were very complimentary of the standard reached in a very short time.

"The winning team produced a fantastic product with a very slick Powerpoint presentation and fielded numerous questions from the floor. Well done to all the teams who worked so hard."

The Big Business Pitch winning team who developed the organiser was made up of Kate Weedy, Hannah Blount, Charlotte Crabb, and Louisa Webb.

Broadcast students hit right note with 'professional' music show

BROADCAST Media students at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) have filmed a live music show at the famous Maidstone TV Studios.

Unsigned Live, a 30-minute studio production which showcased local bands, was recorded in the same professional facilities that are usually home to major network programmes, such as ITV1's Take Me Out.

Second year students on the broadcast media course, which is based at Maidstone Studios, created the show as part of a university project. They collaborated with BA (Hons) creative arts for theatre and film students at UCA Rochester who made the sets and props.

Senior lecturer for broadcast media Simon Welsford, said: "Unsigned Live was a huge success. I was really impressed with the students' attention to detail, not just on the day of filming, but also with the bands they managed to attract, the accompanying website they made, and the buzz they managed to create."

"Basing the course at Maidstone Studios offers a unique setting for our students and enables them to make professional productions.



LIVE: The show was made at Maidstone Studios

"It is impossible for this to feel like a student project because they are using a working gallery and studio, the crew have radio contact, even the presenter and bands have their own dressing rooms – it's a full-on television production which just happens to be made by students."

"We are very excited and fortunate to be able to make use of these facilities for our course."

You can watch the full show plus behind-the-scenes clips at: <http://unsignedlive.weebly.com/episodes>.

Business advice for IT youngsters

SHEPPEY students have been receiving top tips from a London IT firm about how to get ahead in business.

Nine BTEC ICT practitioner students from Canterbury College at Sheppey took part in a series of mock interviews for Norland Managed Services, designed to give them the edge in the jobs market.

They had to get suited and booted for the interviews, which took place at the college's Bridge Road campus.

Norland's IT director Barry Robinson and recruitment manager Kevin Ward travelled down from the capital to grill the 'candidates' before offering them constructive feedback and helping to improve their CVs.

The students' tutor Clare Baker-Harrison said: "The session was really useful for the students and gave them a valuable insight into the working world."

"Norland were very impressed by how seriously they took it."

The students were equally enthusiastic. Joe Risbridger, 19, said: "It not only gave me experience but helped me to realise the area of IT I wish to work in after finishing this course."

"The feedback I received from Barry and Kevin was excellent."

"They reviewed my CV and helped me understand interview areas I am good at and those that need to be developed."

Norland has been working with Canterbury College at Sheppey for several years.

Previously, the students had travelled to London to visit Norland's company head office in Southwark.

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Côte d'Azur, where we spend 3 nights. The pinnacle of the weekend is a day spent in neighbouring Monaco, taking in the famous sights including Monte Carlo Casino, the iconic Port Hercule harbour and the old city on the Rock of Monaco. Our visit also takes in a spectacular Musical Fireworks display over the harbour.

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If you are a highly driven, confident, self-motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, then apply for this job today.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please e-mail your up to date CV, along with a covering letter to

**Dawn Coady, Group Recruitment Manager, Prospect house, Rouen Road,
Norwich, NR1 1RE or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk**

Senior Sales Support, Archant KOS Media

Permanent role, based in Smeeth Nr Ashford

Archant KOS Media is looking for a Senior Sales Support to join the Commercial Team. As Senior Sales Administrator you will be accountable for the smooth running of this team. You will need to be organised and self motivated. Able to work well under pressure, you will be required to move from different areas of responsibility throughout the day to meet the demands of the business.

Knowledge of excel to intermediate / advanced level along with IT skills using word, outlook, power point etc. Basic knowledge of the web will also be required.

All applicants must be flexible in their approach to the day to day tasks, remain professional at all times and work well under pressure.

In return Archant Ltd offers a competitive basic salary, pension scheme and a generous range of other benefits.

Due to the location applicants will need to have their own transport.

Full in house system training will be provided.

Please e-mail your up to date CV, along with a covering letter to

**Simon Thompson, HR Officer,
Archant Lifestyle simon.thompson@archant.co.uk**

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Fax: 01303 817004

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.ukOnline: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Facilities Assistant/Caretaker

Ref: P0061

Salary: £10,384 to £18,066

(dependent on qualifications and experience) per annum

37 hours per week

One Year Fixed Term Contract

Maidstone

We are looking to recruit a hard working individual to participate in the day to day operational duties, assisting in the smooth running of the college and its properties. Your responsibilities will include providing a clean and safe environment for users of the campus building and grounds on all sites, and assist in other general facilities duties as required.

Closing date: 12 noon Wednesday 13 June 2012

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.



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Earn **£53.65-£71.25** for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay.

Interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm, working a minimum 3 days per week, no previous experience – full training given. No selling. Good standard of English required. You must have your own land line and/or broadband and your own transport. To apply call the number below, quoting ref: 7007ZZ.

Call **020 8433 4490**

www.kantaroperations.com

KANTAR OPERATIONS

We are an equal opportunities employer.



The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Margate)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week
Specialist interest in Bariatric nursing desirable

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact
Carolyn Flegg - Senior Staff Nurse on 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Ashford)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

Senior Staff Nurse (Margate)

Full or part-time position available

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Minimum 3 years post registration/equivalent experience

Evidence of continual professional development

Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent

Staff Nurse (Margate)

Part-time position available

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

To discuss all these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit please contact

Mary Guarnieri - Matron on 01843 234252

Staff Nurse - Flexi Bank - Endoscopy (Margate)

Registered Nurse 1st Level - endoscopy trained

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact

Dennis Sutton - Theatre Manager on 07807 829623 or Linda McCafferty - Endoscopy Nurse on 07786 173796

Closing date for all applications - 18th June 2012

**Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road
Margate, Kent CT9 4BG**

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site.

We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Medical Secretary - Full time (Margate)

Closing date for applications 18th June, 2012.

Qualifications: Maths and English (GCSE or Equivalent). Two years experience working in a medical environment. Audio Typing experience essential.

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Paul Parish 01843 234555 x 63316

For job description and application form please contact:

**Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, Spencer Private Hospital,
Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG. Telephone: 01843 234556.
Fax: 01843 296333. E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com**

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Bradstow School

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Committed

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Resilient

Creative, committed and enthusiastic TEACHERS do amazing things at BRADSTOW SCHOOL

If you would like to join our team we are confident that you will find this the most satisfying job you have ever undertaken.

Bradstow is an exciting and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is set in 13 acres of parkland within a few hundred metres of the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We endeavour to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, many of whom have associated challenging behaviours. We have achieved international recognition for our leadership, supporting our people and for our developments in Functional Communication and Positive Behaviour Support.

Experience is not essential. What makes the difference at Bradstow is the professional and personal qualities and values of the people who are employed here. What it is that you as an individual have to offer our young people to enable them to feel safe, unconditionally valued and engaged.

You will be provided with an extended and ongoing package of induction and training. We believe that staff training and professional development, together with the other staff support systems in place, are essential in our specialised field and are at the core of the success of the school.

All teachers are fully trained and supported in Gentle Teaching, TEACCH, Prospect Positive Behaviour Support, PECS and other augmentative communication systems, as well as being provided with a wide range of other specialist skills. You will also be encouraged and supported to extend your skills and knowledge by undertaking further Degree and Diploma studies.

In addition to judging Bradstow 'Outstanding' in all appropriate categories, OFSTED 2009 said,

"The curriculum and the quality of teaching and support are exceptional"

"It is to the tremendous credit of a highly skilled and well-qualified team of teachers and support staff that they enable pupils to overcome and cope with the substantial learning and emotional barriers that they face"

"Bradstow is a very complex organization and a centre of excellence in its own field"

If you would like to join our team and help us to continue to transform the lives of these children and their families, please contact us. Working at Bradstow will be challenging and you will need to be committed to the needs of the young people and the school. In return we offer you a highly rewarding and satisfying career which will both develop your skills and prepare you for senior and/or specialist leadership posts as your career develops - with quite a bit of fun thrown in as well!

For SEN specialists, the second SEN point may be available.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

Applications should be received by 12 noon, Friday 22nd June 2012.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

MINI SCHOOL INFORMATION MANAGER REQUIRED

Contract: Permanent (37 hours, 39 weeks per year)

Salary: Kent Range 4 (£16,145 - £16,961) pro rata per annum

We are seeking a highly competent Mini School Information Manager to take a lead within a mini school in helping with the daily needs of students. Responsibilities will include the monitoring and day to day management of student attendance and performance. Other duties will involve the administration of payment and permission slips for trips and outdoor activities as well as managing the resources within the mini school.

You will have strong inter-personal and communication skills with experience in an educational setting, ideally working with young people of secondary school age. You will have a flexible approach to work, able to prioritise tasks quickly whilst ensuring that the welfare of students remains your highest priority. Knowledge of SIMS or other IT Management Information Systems, whilst not essential, would be an advantage.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Contact:
Mr D Jones, Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: martin.jones@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Closing Date: Tuesday 19th June 2012



achievement for all



The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site.
We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Ward Sister (Margate)

Full time position available

Closing date for applications - 18th June 2012

Qualifications Registered Nurse 1st Level. Minimum 5 years post registration/equivalent experience. Evidence of continual professional development. Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent. Degree desirable.

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact

Mary Guarnieri - Matron on 01843 234252

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, Spencer Private Hospital,
Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG.
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencervic.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSIONNOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF TOWN
AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

**KCC/AS/0153/2012 - Proposed development at
Woodleas Farm, Goodwell Lane, Aldington, Ashford,
Kent, TN25 7DX.**

RH Butler Ltd (Skip Hire) is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for proposed change of use from a skip depot to a waste transfer depot with construction of a new building. Provision of a portacabin and a weighbridge. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN
AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND)
ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING
(LISTED BUILDING & CONSERVATION AREAS)
ACT 1990**

**KCC/MA/0185/2012 - Proposed development at
Invicta House, Sessions House Square, County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.**

Kent County Council is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission to install solar PV panels on three sides of the external roof area. The solar array would be a 49.35 kWp area. This would have 210 x 235 watt PV panels. The proposed development would affect the setting of a nearby listed building.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 23 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 10 June 2012



TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL)
REGULATIONS 2012Application for designation of the Civil parish
of Hythe as a neighbourhood area

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Shepway District Council has received from Hythe Town Council an application under regulation 5 of the above regulations for the district council to designate the civil parish of Hythe as a neighbourhood area within the meaning of Section 61G of the 1990 Act. The purpose of designating an area as a neighbourhood area is so that a neighbourhood plan can be prepared for that area.

A copy of the application and a map of the area can be viewed on the district council's website at www.shepway.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning or at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY during normal office hours.

Representations on whether the civil parish of Hythe is an appropriate neighbourhood area may be made to the district council no later than 23rd July by writing to Chris Lewis, Head of Planning, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY or by email to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Telephone 01303 853278 for further information.

Chris Lewis,
Head of Planning
8th June 2012

**Highways Notices can
be found on pages 28
and 29**

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01565/HOUSE 7 Fuggles Court Benenden, Benenden
- Single storey rear extension (CA)

12/01577/FUL Beacon Hall House Rolvenden Road, Benenden
- Conversion of stables to holiday-let accommodation (LB)

12/01451/FUL Blue Cedars Langton Road, Broadwater
- Demolition of bungalow and replace with a detached 3-bedroom house (CA)

12/01510/HOUSE 8A Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Conversion of garage into habitable space and extending over on first floor. Single storey rear extension. Render to ground floor (CA)

12/01584/LBC Mascalls Court Cottage Mascalls Court Road, Paddock Wood
- Listed building consent - alteration works and removal of chimney stack on the north west elevation (works already completed) (LB)

12/01484/FUL Treetops & Thornbury Sandrock Road, Park
- Conversion of two flats to single dwelling; remodelling of house with improved external materials and new windows/doors; balcony to north west corner; dormers amended and new dormer/rooflights added; landscape works to southern end of site (CA)

12/01576/FUL Park View Pembury Road, Park
- (Part site) four-bedroom detached dwelling (Redesign of approved application TW/11/00360/FUL) (CA)

12/01579/HOUSE Old Place Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Conversion of part of the ground floor of the existing Coach House to ancillary residential accommodation. Extension on west elevation (revised application to previously consented scheme, TW/10/02116 refers) (LB)

12/01583/LBC Old Place Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of part of the ground floor of the existing Coach House to ancillary residential accommodation. Extension on west elevation (revised application to previously consented scheme, TW/10/02118 refers) (LB)

12/01475/FULMJ Texaco 13 - 17 London Road, Southborough Town Council
- Demolition of petrol filling station/car dealership buildings and construct a 74 bed care home with new access and landscaped gardens (MAJOR) (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgejwells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgejwells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 09 June 2012



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING
APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 25TH JUNE 2012

SW/12/0561 & SW/12/0562:
Loft conversion with 1 conservation rooflight & 1 dormer window to rear elevation. Existing concrete tiled roof to be replaced with slate tiles - 15 Edith Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0567 & SW/12/0734:
Application to extend original planning permission SW/09/0323 - Parsonage Farm House, The Street, BREDGAR; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0666:
Erection of fences, gates and shed - Wheelwrights Cottages, 1 Lewson Street, NORTON; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0699:
1) House conversion; 2) Demolish existing rear extension and replace with new rear extension with rear terrace; 3) works to reinstate chimney stack; 4) Other minor alterations - 22 Church Road, OARE; REASON 2

SW/12/0670:
Yew Tree Cottage, 2 Hogbens Hill, SELLING; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0711:
Listed Building Consent for replacement of gas supplies pipe - 7/8 Davington Cottages, Davington Hill, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/2128/S - 20, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RT - Change of use and extension of the premises from offices to residential to provide a total of 5 flats including the demolition of the existing rear extension and erection of part two/part single storey rear extensions to the building fronting Tonbridge Road, together with parking provision and cycle storage and bin enclosures. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0492/S - 1, SHEPHERDS COTTAGES, WATER LANE, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 OSG - Retrospective application for erection of close boarded fencing and entrance gates and for the laying of hardstanding. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0624/S - LITTLE ADDLESTEAD, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6EY - Erection of a two storey side extension, installation of 1 no front dormer window, 3 no rear dormer windows and changes to fenestration. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0766/S - 466, 468, 470, LOOSE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9UA - Demolition of 466, 468 and 470 Loose Road including all associated buildings and erection of 11(no) detached dwellings with new service road and associated works. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0773/S - 3, ELVEYS COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HY - Two storey side extension and porch (resubmission of MA/12/0374). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0780/N - IVY HOUSE, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4DN - Listed building consent for internal alterations including removal of existing modern partition walls, erection of new internal stud wall, replacement of sanitary fittings, new internal door, raising of ceiling level beneath catlside roof and removal of modern fireplace and insertion of rooflight. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0796/S - CHERRY MOUNT, MALTHOUSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 OBP - Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/0797/S - COURT LODGE PARK, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 OPD - Demolition of existing eastern extension and replacement with conservatory and extension of existing rear conservatory to provide additional living accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0808/S - OLD FOWLE HALL, QUEEN STREET, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PL - Orangery to replace existing conservatory. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0809/S - OLD FOWLE HALL, QUEEN STREET, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PL - Listed Building Consent for orangery to replace existing conservatory. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0812/S - ST HELENS, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 OUT - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey orangery. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0813/S - COURT LODGE PARK, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 OPD - Listed building consent for demolition of existing eastern extension and replacement with conservatory and extension of existing rear conservatory to provide additional living accommodation. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0823/S - HORLANDS FARM, SUMMERHILL ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9DB - Change of use of land from agriculture to keeping of horses; erection of horse livery building, machinery storage building and circular horse training area; and introduction of ancillary hard surfaces. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0825/S - LAND REAR OF, FORMER BP FILLING STATION, 531, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9LN - An application for a new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission MA/08/2384 (erection of 14 No. residential units) to allow a further three years in which to implement the development. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0828/N - HARRIETSHAM ALMSHOUSES, EAST STREET, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1HJ - Erection of ten 1-bedroom almshouses and a day room and provision of enlarged car parking area including the demolition of existing garage/store building. **Reason: 1, 2, 6**

MA/12/0843/S - LITTLE MOATENDEN, MAIDSTONE ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PT - Change of use of land to residential and erection of a three bay garage/store with room in the roof to provide home office (Resubmission of MA/12/0843). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0863/N - 55 - 57, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Installation of new shop front and associated works. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0864/N - 55 - 57, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Listed building consent for the Installation of new shop front and associated works including new door to rear. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0877/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Alterations to ground floor shop front. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0878/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Listed building consent for internal alterations, installation of 4(no) satellite dishes, 1(no) TV aerial, 3(no) air conditioning units, replacement of fenestration to front elevation at ground floor level and erection of 1(no) externally illuminated fascia sign formed from individually built lettering and 1(no) externally illuminated projecting sign. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0879/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Installation of 3(no) air conditioning units, 4(no) satellite dishes and 1(no) TV aerial. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0880/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Change of use of basement and ground floor level to bookmakers (A2 Use). **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **24th June 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 10th June 2012



PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

We Manelght Ltd. t/a Tap 'n' Tin (Chatham) are applying for a new Premises Licence at the Tap 'n' Tin, 24 Railway Street, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4JT. Our application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR.

We are applying for the following licensable activities Sale of Alcohol (10am – 03.30), Regulated Entertainment (10am till 03.30) and Late Night Refreshment (10am – 03.30).

Should you wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view our application by contacting the Council on 01634 337107 or 337108 by 4th July 2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
 Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/00771/FUL: St Edmund's School, St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, CT2 8HU Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/00323/CAN for the construction of astro-turf pitch and floodlighting in order to extend the time limit for implementation.
Applicant: St Edmund's School Reason: Public right of way/major development.
CA/12/00819/FUL: Court Lodge Coach House and Stable, Church Lane, Nackington, Lower Hardres, CT4 7AE Conversion of coach house to residential accommodation to provide ancillary living accommodation to Court Lodge.
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Thomas Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/12/00830/LUP: 1 Beach Alley, Whitstable, CT5 1BS Certificate of proposed lawful development for a single-storey extension to rear.
Applicant: Mr Newton Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00842/FUL: 43 Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HS Replacement windows and front door.
Applicant: Mr Ingoldby Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00854/LB: 19 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TH Installation of non-illuminated hanging sign.
Applicant: County Clothes Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/12/00856/LB: 27 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BT Installation of two hanging signs.
Applicant: Mrs S Wood Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/12/00890/VAR: Canterbury College, New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3AJ Variation of condition 01 of planning permission CA/09/00010/CAN to allow retention of temporary building and contractor's compound until August 2015.
Applicant: Canterbury College Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00891/FUL: Yew Tree Farmhouse, Stone Street, Petham, CT4 5PL Extension to outbuilding incorporating cart shed and store.
Applicant: Mr R Cadman Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA/12/00892/FUL: The Masonic Library and Museum, St Peter's Place, Canterbury, CT1 2BG Partial replacement of boundary wall with gates and piers. (Revised scheme).
Applicant: Masonic Province East Kent Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00897/OUT: Land rear of 273-285a, Sturry Road, Canterbury, CT1 1DS Erection of a two-storey block of student accommodation (10 x one bed studio apartments) with associated cycle store and refuse enclosure. (Outline application).
Applicant: Sloggett Group Ltd Reason: Major development.
CA/12/00902/LB: Chislet Court, Church Lane, Chislet, CT3 4DU Change of use of east wing from storage to annexe, associated internal and external alterations and garden room extension.
Applicant: Mr M and Mrs K Wilkinson Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/12/00907/ADV: 27 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BT Installation of two hanging signs.
Applicant: Mrs S Ward Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00908/VAR: Chislet Court, Church Lane, Chislet, CT3 4DU Variation of condition 02 of planning permission CA/10/02067/FUL relating to approved drawing numbers, changes to design of garden room and associated details.
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Wilkinson Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/12/00934/LB: Yew Tree Farmhouse, Stone Street, Petham, CT4 5PL Extension to outbuilding incorporating cart shed and store.
Applicant: Mr R Cadman Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 2 July 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 8 June 2012



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0491/SH - Nightingale Cottage High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Erection of a two storey rear extension.
Y12/0308/SH# - GJB Autos North Street New Romney Kent TN28 8DW - Erection of a terrace of 3 No. 3 bedroom dwellings with associated parking following demolition of existing building.
Y12/0459/SH - 37 Sandgate Hill Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AX - Retrospective application for the erection of a detached timber outbuilding on supporting timbers.
Y12/0516/SH - Hythe Lawn Tennis Club Twiss Road Hythe Kent - Felling of two Elm trees situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of a Lombardy Poplar and a Lime tree.
Y12/0515/SH - Folkestone Library 2 Grace Hill Folkestone Kent CT20 1HD - Listed building consent to erect partition walls within entrance foyer to form new registry office.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
 + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
 Shepway District Council

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE AND SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS KH389, KH448/ZR305, KH449, KH450, KH451 IN THE PARISHES OF WICHLING, OTTERDEN AND DODDINGTON

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS KH389, KH448/ZR305, KH449, KH450, KH451 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(3), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed the following Public Footpaths

- KH389 (between Hubbards Hill and Payden Street) for approx 1 week
- KH450 (between Paydens Street Farm and north of The Homestead) for approx 1 week
- KH451 (between Payden Street and Slade Road) for approx 1 week
- KH448 (between the junction with KH454 and the junctions with Slade Road / Old Farm Lane) for approx 3 weeks
- KH449 (between Payden Street and the junction with KH448) for approx 3 weeks

from the 1st June 2012

The Order allows for the paths to be closed for a maximum of six months, should this be necessary.

The paths will be closed because works to excavate and build a pipeline are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: John Pelham

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 10th June 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
 Kent Countryside Access Service,
 on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
 or visit
www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

HIGH STREET, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the granite setts in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Ashford, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with North Street and Wellesley Road.

The alternative route is via North Street, Park Street, Edinburgh Road, A292 Somerset Road and Wellesley Road.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended between North Street and Wellesley Road to allow access from either direction, up to the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

A28 WINCHEAP, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide services and drainage for a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 Wincheap, Canterbury, on or after 11 June 2012, as shown below.

The work will be carried out in 2 phases, the first phase being a full time east-bound closure with the second phase being night time closures in both directions.

The start date for the second phase may vary, dependent on progress with the earlier phase.

The closures are between the junctions with Ten Perch Road and Cow Lane, with access only, as far as Homersham.

The alternative route for both phases is via Ten Perch Road, The Boundary, Cotton Road and Cow Lane.

PHASE 1 - from 11 June 2012, for up to 8 days, Wincheap will be closed to eastbound (Canterbury-bound) traffic.

There will be no entry from Cow Lane into Cotton Road except access for collections and deliveries to Homebase and Mitcham Building Supplies.

Traffic leaving Canterbury will be unaffected.

PHASE 2 - from 18 June 2012 Wincheap will be closed in both directions, for up to 3 nights, between 8.00 pm through until 5.00 am the following morning.

MILL VIEW ROAD, HERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill View Road, Herne, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Sections of the road will be closed in phases, with access to Strode Park maintained from at least one of its junctions.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Mill Lane, School Lane, Herne Street and Canterbury Road.

STATION ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe use of a crane to lift building materials onto a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Whitstable, on or after 11 June 2012, as detailed below.

There will be one closure during week commencing 11 June 2012 and one closure during week commencing 18 June 2012.

The specific closure dates will be advised locally and signposted on site.

Each closure will be for up to 1 day, within the hours of 8.30 am and 4.00 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 89.

The alternative route is via Westmead Road and Diamond Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

BACK STREET, RINGWOULD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Back Street, Ringwould, Deal, on or after 12 June 2012 for up to 3 days, between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Front Street.

SANDOWN ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandown Road, Sandwich, on or after 18 June 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with St George's Road and Knightrider Street.

The alternative routes are via St George's Road, New Street, Hamet Street, Strand Street, Upper Strand Street and Knightrider Street, or in reverse via Knightrider Street, Upper Strand Street, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, New Street and St George's Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

JUBILEE CRESCENT, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Essential carriageway and footway repairs , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Jubilee Crescent, Gravesend, on or after 25 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Hampton Crescent to outside 100 Jubilee Crescent.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Hampton Crescent to outside 100 Jubilee Crescent.

LEYWOOD ROAD, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Electrical power cable up-grade, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Leywood Road, Meopham, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed.

There will be no access for through traffic from the top section of Leywood Road near the junction of Luxon Road.

The alternative route is via Lockyers Hill, Strawberry Hill, Dean Lane and White Horse Lane.

PRIESTWOOD ROAD, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT work to access a underground structure to allow a new customer connection , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Priestwood Road, Meopham , on or after 14 June 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Priestwood Road will be closed at the Junction with Chandlers Road.

Through traffic will be directed around the works via the island in Chandlers Road at junction with Priestwood Road

HIGHWAYS - District of Maidstone

FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace manholes, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Farleigh Hill, Tovil, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Straw Mill Hill.

The alternative route is via Burial Ground Lane, Tovil Green, Lower Tovil, Church Street, Tovil Hill.

GRAVELLY BOTTOM ROAD, LEEDS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of CCTV works on sewers, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gravelly Bottom Road, Leeds, on or after 13 June 2012 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Ulverscroft.

The alternative route is via Gravelly Bottom Road, Broomfield Road, Park Barn Road, Burberry Lane, Upper Street, Ulcombe Road, Gravelly Bottom Road.

GRAVELLY WAYS, YALDING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gravelly Ways, Yalding, on or after 12 June 2012 for up to 3 nights between 23.30hrs and 05.40hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the Beltring Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Beltring Road, A228 Branbridges Road/Boyle Road, B2015 Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road, Gravelly Ways.

HEADCORN ROAD LENHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT have requested safe access to underground structure for cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Headcorn Road Lenham, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed .

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of green lane along Headcorn Lane to the junction of Lenham road for the entire length .

The alternative route is via Via Green Lane , Lenham Road.

SIMMONDS LANE, OTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a high voltage cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Simmonds Lane, Otham, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Foxgloves.

The alternative route is via Honey Lane, White Horse Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC, BAN RIGHT TURN, SUSPEND ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near the road Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on the routes described in schedule below.

The Order will become effective on 11th June 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. These restrictions will be effective as and when required and the appropriate signage is in place.

Stone St phase 2 and 3 traffic orders Phase 2 Mid June - October

LOWER STONE ST AND HALE RD

	As required and indicated by signs 1st July 2012 - 26th October 2012	Diversion
1	Close Romney Place	Padsole Lane Mote Rd
2	Close Lower Stone St (night closure 2230 - 0500)	Romney Place Radssole Lane Mote Rd
3	Ban right turn into Knightrider St*	Romney Place Padsole Lane and Mote Rd
4	Close Mote Rd slip from Lower Stone St (night only)*	Romney Place Padsole Lane
5	Close Campbell Rd at junction with Hayle Rd and suspend one way order between Hayle Rd and Muir Rd*	Muir Rd, Old Tovil Rd, Upper Stone St, Sheals Crescent, Postley Rd, Hayle Rd

6	Close Old Tovil Rd (E) at junction with Hayle Rd/ Postley Rd and suspend one way order between Hayle Rd and Muir Rd*	Hayle Rd Mill St Palace Ave Lower Stone St Upper Stone St Campbell Rd Muir Rd
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*provisional orders to be used if necessary after site investigation

Phase 3 October - March 2013

Upper Stone St

	CLOSURES	Diversion
	As required and indicated by signs 26th October 2012 - 31st March 2013	
7	Foster St at Junction with Upper Stone St	Brunswick St Priory Rd
8	Brunswick St at Junction with Upper Stone St	Foster St and Priory Rd
9	George St at Junction with Upper Stone St*	Brunswick St
10	Campbell Rd at Junction with Upper Stone St suspend one way order between Upper Stone St and Rawdon Rd*	Upper Stone St, Sheals Crescent, Postley Rd, Old Tovil Rd, Rawdon Rd
11	Brunswick St East from Upper Stone St to Melville Rd Waterloo St at Junction with Upper Stone St suspend no entry at east end	East bound Upper Stone St Waterloo St Kingsley Rd Melville Rd Westbound Melville Rd Mote Rd and Upper Stone St
12		Brunswick St Kingsley Rd
13	Upper Stone St from Mote Rd to Waterloo St (Night only 2230 - 0500)	Through Traffic - Mote Rd, Watt Tyler Way, Ashford Rd, Willington St, Sutton Rd, Loose Rd Local Traffic (no HGV) Mote Rd, Hastings Rd, Waterloo St, - suspend No Entry Waterloo St at junction with Kingsley Rd
14	College Walk Footpath*	Priory Rd, Mill St, College Rd

*provisional orders to be used if necessary after site investigation

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Adsley on 01233 714082.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CASTLE HILL, HARTLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Castle Hill, Hartley, Sevenoaks between the junction of Fawkham Road, Fawkham and Ash Road, Hartley.

The Order will become effective on 24th June 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 25 June 2012 and will last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Ash Road in Hartley and Hartley Road and Main Road, Longfield and Fawkham Road, Longfield and Fawkham Road, Fawkham.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new gas supply.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

A259 RED LION SQUARE, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

traffic on the A259, Hythe, on or after 25 June 2012 for up to 3 nights, between 7.00 pm and 1.00 am.

There will be no access through Hythe using the A259 during these works.

The A259 will be closed in the vicinity of Red Lion Square, as detailed below.

Eastbound, the closure is from Military Road (from the junction of the road leading to Military Road Car park) including Red Lion Square into Rampart Road as far as the junction with Stade Street.

Westbound, the A259 closure is of Rampart Road from the junction with Stade Street through Red Lion Square into Dymchurch Road, as far as the junction with Portland Road.

The alternative route is via A259 Dymchurch Road, Scanlons Bridge Road (Military Road in reverse) A261 London Road, Hythe Road, A20 Ashford Road, Sandling Road, Ashford Road, Junction 11 Stanford Intersection, A20 Ashford Road, Junction 12 Cheriton Interchange, B2064 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road, A259 Castle Hill Avenue, Shorncliffe Road, Earls Avenue, Sandgate Road, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate Esplanade, Seabrook Road, East Street, Prospect Road and Rampart Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, FOLKESTONE AREA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Folkestone Area, as shown below.

Planned closure times are between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

ALBION ROAD, FOLKESTONE will be closed on 11 June 2012 for up to 2 days.

The closure is in the vicinity of the junction with Fernbank Crescent.

The alternative route is via Linden Crescent and Canterbury Road.

AUDLEY ROAD, FOLKESTONE will be closed on 18 June 2012 for 1 day.

The closure is between Shorncliffe Road and Croft Lane

The alternative route is via Shorncliffe Road, Cooling Lane and Croft Lane.

GRIMSTON GARDENS, FOLKESTONE will be closed on 18 June 2012 for 1 day.

The closure is on the eastern section of the road, to the north of the T-junction.

Access remains from the remainder of the road.

NAILDOWN CLOSE, SEABROOK will be closed on 18 June 2012 for up to 2 days.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

MINTCHING WOOD LANE AND RAWLING STREET, MILSTEAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of phone cabling works in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mintching Wood Lane and Rawling Street, Milstead, on or after 11 June 2012, as shown below.

MINTCHING WOOD LANE will be closed from 11 June 2012 for up to 3 days

The closure is in the vicinity of Walnut Tree Cottages, with no through access between the junctions with Wood Lane and Bluetown Lane.

The alternative route is via Wood Lane, Manor Road and Bluetown Lane.

RAWLING STREET will be closed on 14 June 2012 for up to 1 day.

The closure is between Lion Farm Cottages and The Larches, with no through access between the junctions with Mintching Wood Lane (north of the M2) and Cheney Hill.

The alternative route is via Broadoak Road, Bottom Pond Road and Cheney Hill.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

OAK LANE, MINSTER-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through

traffic on Oak Lane, Minster-on-Sea, on or after 25 June 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from outside The Oaks to the entrance to Seacliffe Caravan Park.

There is no alternative route as this section of the road is a No Through Road.

Every effort will be made to allow as much access as possible, whenever safe to do so, but there will be times when the use of machinery prevents this.

PRESTON GROVE, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Preston Grove, Faversham, on or after 26 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with the A2 London Road.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road, The Mall, Preston Lane and Preston Grove.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

B2053 NORTHDOWN HILL AND WESTOVER ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2053 Northdown Hill and Westover Road, Broadstairs, on or after 28 June 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 8.00 pm and 1.00 am.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pearsons Way and Westover Gardens.

The alternative route is via B2053 Northdown Hill, Green Lane, B2052 George Hill Road, Convent Road and Beacon Road.

EPPLE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable a bridge safety inspection to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Epple Road, Birchington, on or after 11 June 2012 between 10.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Epple Road, Alpha Road, Station Approach, Rossetti Road, Epple Bay Road and Cross Road.

SANDWICH ROAD, RAMSGATE & CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, MINSTER / MANSTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable the construction of traffic calming measures, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandwich Road, Ramsgate & Canterbury Road West, Minster / Manston.

This Order takes effect on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 2 months.

Closures of Sandwich Road and Canterbury Road West will take place on various nights, between 8.00 pm through until 6.00 am, with specific dates notified one week beforehand.

Only one of the roads will be closed at any one time.

SANDWICH ROAD, RAMSGATE (formerly A256) will be closed to through traffic between Ebbsfleet Roundabout and Lord of the Manor Junction.

The alternative route is via A256 Richborough Way and A299 Hengist Way

CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, MINSTER / MANSTON (formerly A299) will be closed to through traffic between Cliffsend Roundabout and Lord of the Manor Junction.

The alternative route is via A299 Hengist Way.

ST PAUL'S ROAD, CLIFTONVILLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow electricity cabling repairs to be carried out, Kent

County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Paul's Road, Cliftonville, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Sweyn Road.

There is no alternative route. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access up to where the road is closed.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tonbridge & Malling

A228 SEVEN MILE LANE, EAST PECKHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of street cleansing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on A228 Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham between A26 Tonbridge Road and A228 Boyle Way on or after 16 June 2012 for up to 16 days or until the works have been completed.

COMP LANE, PLATT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Comp Lane, Platt, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 12 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Long Mill Lane, A25 Maidstone Road, A20 London Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane

TAYLORS LANE, TROTTSCLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace electricity power lines, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Taylors Lane, Trottscliffe, on or after 26 June 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed along the whole length.

The alternative route is southbound traffic via Pilgrims Way, Pinesfield Lane, Church Road and northbound is via Wrotham Water Lane, Pilgrims Way, A227 Gravesend Road, Pilgrims Way.

WELL STREET, EAST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a telegraph pole and provide a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Well Street, East Malling, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Broadwater Road to outside 177.

The alternative route is via Clare Lane, Mill Street, Wateringbury Road, Pikey Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (NORTH FARM ROAD/DOWDING WAY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on North Farm Road/Dowding

Way, Tunbridge Wells from the junction of Chapman Way to Lamberts Road. This closure will come into effect on or after Monday 25th June 2012 between 21.00hrs and 06.00hrs for an estimated period of up to 5 nights or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via North Farm Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Sandhurst Road, Birken Road, Liptraps Lane and Lamberts Road. The environmental 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Birken Road and Liptraps Lane is temporarily suspended for the duration of these works.

Connect Traffic Management apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for works to the railway bridge. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Paul Coppin on 0844 812 6006.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A228 MAIDSTONE ROAD, CAPEL/WHETSTED ROAD, CAPEL/ WHETSTED ROAD, YALDING/BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM/BOYLE WAY, B2160 MAIDSTONE ROAD, YALDING, BELTRING ROAD, EAST PECKHAM, BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM) (50MPH & 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS) (NO STOPPING OR WAITING RESTRICTIONS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public the Kent County Council intends to make an Order with the following restrictions.

- 1) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 50mph is prohibited on the A228 Maidstone Road, Capel from the junction with B2017 Badsell Road to Little Eden Farm, A228 Whetsted Road, Capel.
- 2) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 30mph is prohibited on the A228 Whetsted Road, Capel between Little Eden Farm to the roundabout outside the main entrance to The Hop Farm Country Park.
- 3) Eastbound traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 50mph is prohibited on the A228 Hale Street By-Pass from the junction with B2015 Maidstone Road to the roundabout at Branbridges Industrial Estate.
- 4) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 30mph in both directions is prohibited on A228 Branbridges Road from the roundabout at Branbridges Industrial Estate to the roundabout at the Hop Farm Country Park.
- 5) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 30mph in both directions is prohibited on the B2160 Maidstone Road from the roundabout at The Hop Farm Country Park to Transfesa Road.
- 6) The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting or stopping on A228 Maidstone Road from B2017 Badsell Road/Whetsted Road/Branbridges Road/ Boyle Way to A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road between Transfesa Road and A228 Whetsted Road roundabout and Beltring Road between A228 Branbridges Road to Torbay Road.
- 7) Prohibit waiting and stopping on Branbridges Road, outside of the Industrial Estate.

These restrictions are to be in place, when required as indicated by signage on site on Thursday 28th June 2012 to Monday 2nd July 2012 and Wednesday 18th July 2012 to Sunday 22nd July 2012.

The Hop Farm Country Park apologise for any inconvenience caused by these restrictions which are necessary due to large scale events taking place.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 10th June 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on **01303 817056**



Step back in time for lessons in how to do battle at the knight school

SEE PAGE 53



SCORE DRAW

Youth orchestra performance is a very big deal

SEE PAGE 56

Kent Weekend



Kent's own special orchid

... and the group that's helping it to beat the odds

SEE PAGE 51

PLUS: Paolo's making something special in his kitchen - **food and drink p52** Farmstead style of modern homes offers the best of both worlds - **property p58** Kia sowing the Ceed for a new generation - **driving p63**



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CONSERVATION

White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

The gateway guardians

Dave Mairs meets the group ensuring England's front line keeps a place for nature

As a survival strategy, that of the late spider orchid might leave a little to be desired. With its pollination and, ultimately, existence dependent on a species of bee that doesn't occur in the UK, it is a wonder it survives on our shores at all.

And, quite possibly, without the efforts of organisations such as the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, it wouldn't.

The organisation that started out as the White Cliffs Countryside Project came into being in 1989, a year in which just six late spider orchids were recorded on what was to become one of its core sites, Folkestone Downs. Across Kent, the only county to host the species, the population probably numbered no more than a few hundred. Extinction here beckoned.

A helping hand was needed if this intriguing plant was to have a British future, and in south Kent it came from the project, or, more particularly, from the cattle that were brought in to those sites still hosting it.

They were needed to maintain the chalk grassland that supports not just this intriguing orchid but so much other wonderful wildlife – this is a semi-natural habitat that would not exist without grazing. The landscape would revert to scrub and ultimately woodland, and hefty chunks of one of Europe's finest wildlife habitats would disappear.

And who's to say that we don't live in a part of the world where nature needs all the help it can get? Standing with the partnership's Kirk Alexander and Phil Green on the Folkestone Downs overlooking the sprawling, unlovely Channel Tunnel workings that have ripped such a gaping scar in this part of the county, it's easy to believe that here is an area in which the wonders of our natural world have come very much second best.

While the wounds of development will perhaps never fully heal, you soon discover that nature has not simply clung on here but is, to some extent at least, thriving.

This is Eurotunnel territory and, although there are legal obligations to wildlife protection, Kirk is keen to point out that the company "went way beyond what was needed by law", both in respect of the orchid and the project itself.

Phil goes further: "The project probably wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for Eurotunnel. They're not the only funders, but there's a good probability that without them this wouldn't have happened. They also help with bidding for European funding... cross-borders money and so on."

Now in its 23rd year, WCCP manages 20 sites that cover some 300 hectares of chalk grassland in the Dover and Folkestone area. There are 12 staff, but some of these are part-time, making an equivalent of eight full-time workers.

The partnership is about very much more than just one species, although the late spider orchid is unquestionably a jewel in the crown, and indeed



ROLLING BACK THE YEARS: WCCP staff (Kirk Alexander is on the right) back when it all began in 1989, left, and an expanded team some 20 years on



its remit extends to more than simply conserving wildlife... it is also of inestimable benefit to people.

Huge numbers of visitors come to walk, relax or see the area's wonderful range of flowers (Folkestone Warren, for example, hosts more than 100,000 people a year), while there are now an impressive 15 participating organisations.

Vital though WCCP is in this beleaguered, overcrowded part of the world, it would not be with us were it not for the cooperation – and in some cases money – of those partner groups.

The WCCP budget is substantial, covering some £300,000 a year. Dover District Council is the 'responsible body', contributing £90,000 per annum, while neighbouring Shepway council gives £40,360 and Eurotunnel the same amount. And the good folk of south-east Kent get their money's worth...

"We're not here to deter people – we don't want to frighten them away," said Kirk. "Virtually everything we have is open to the public – we want people to come here."

So everyone's a winner, not least the late spider orchid, which in 2011 numbered an encouraging 200 individuals in the Folkestone and Cheriton area alone.

With the exception of a few individuals scattered along the downs, the next reasonably-sized colonies are at Wye National Reserve, where habitat management has also resulted in more plants. After that, there are none.

The reintroduction of cattle by WCCP (some sites had not been grazed for 50 years) as part of a wider management regime has delivered an impressive return, but we're still left with the

conundrum of how this intriguing plant survives in the absence of its apparently vital partner insect.

Self-pollination? No. So how?

"They're long-lived – eight to 15 years, on average – and that helps," said Phil, a man who really does get up close and personal with the plants and has perhaps done more than anyone to secure their Kentish future.

"When numbers are high – as they are now, and were in the late 1800s and early 1900s – the chances of casual pollination by other species of insect to a couple of flowers is high.

"But when numbers had got as low as they were when WCCP started, and indeed long before, then any pollination is unlikely and in the early days there was no pollination that wasn't down to humans.

"I have to collect the pollen from a flower of one plant and place this on the stigma [the female part] of another plant's flower. The pollen is stored away in little sacs – it isn't loose, as in most other plant species – so these sacs have to be physically carried from one plant to another.

"My pollination is carried out under licence, otherwise it would be illegal to interfere with them, as the late spider orchid is legally protected.

"Occasionally, the wind or a passing animal may cause the pollen sacs to come loose and fall on the stigma of the same flower, but this would not normally happen and can't be guaranteed."

Phil's intimate intervention aside, the cattle hold the key at Folkestone Downs and at similar sites, their no-nonsense approach to wrapping rough tongues around vegetation such as the rugged tor grass and ripping it up meaning there

is no fancy nibbling of the short sward so important to the chalk flora and fauna.

There is, it should be noted, more to chalk-grassland management than simply releasing a herd of cows into a field and leaving them to it. Variety of habitat is crucial if the mosaic of grasses, herbs, flowers, butterflies and all the rest with their differing needs are to thrive... there is a lot to consider and opinions on the exact methods as mixed as the range of species to be protected.

All have their intrinsic value, but it is impossible to deny the historic bond between the late spider orchid and this south-eastern tip of the North Downs, for it was on Cheriton Hill that the species was first discovered in the UK.

Its prospects look healthier than they have for years, but what of those of WCCP?

"It depends what the Government does," said Kirk. "Natural England has already had its budget cut. There are changing priorities. Everybody's cutting back and we've taken cuts before."

"We raise quite a bit of our own funding, but otherwise it's split pretty much equally between local government, central government and Europe, and private sources."

Wherever the money comes from, the continued success of the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership should be appreciated by us all.

You don't need to be a botanist or wildlife expert to appreciate its work. If you simply value the opportunity to walk in open space surrounded by some very special wildlife away from the cloying urban sprawl of the Kent coast, you had better hope this organisation is with us for many years to come.

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FOOD & DRINK

Eating Out



Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

Dunkerley's marks 25 years at the top

IT'S that time of year... roll back the clouds, bring on the sunshine, search out the flip-flops. Destination Deal.

More precisely, destination Dunkerley's Hotel and Restaurant as owners Ian and Linda celebrate 25 years of success.

With a sunny terrace for alfresco dining and modern, classy interior, the eatery is the picture of Britain but with a pinch of Continental elegance.

And with long-serving staff, an enviable reputation for quality food, excellent service and prime location, Dunkerley's top pair can afford a quick reminiscence of their past quarter of a century.

Starting out life as a modest seafront café in 1987, Dunkerley's has gone from strength to strength, offering 16 comfortable en-suite bedrooms, while the kitchen provides food worthy of two AA Rosettes as well as the prestigious recommendation from Michelin.

And for Ian, maintaining quality is as important today as it was the day that Dunkerley's opened.

He said: "We are always modernising, changing our styles both with our food and the décor of the hotel and restaurant. We don't want anything to become stale. We want the quality of our food and our staff to remain at the very top."

Quite literally a stone's throw from the sea, Dunkerley's offers an idyllic place to sample local ingredients straight off the boat.

"Whether we're picking out the mussel shells steamed with a little tippie, cracking a claw of crab or lobster, shelling the prawns, or winking



STARS AT THE BAR: Ian and Linda are celebrating 25 remarkable years of success at Dunkerley's

out the whelks, cockles and clams, we all love to graze on a hot summer's day.

"We want to soak up the atmosphere and wash the whole day down with generous supplies of the very best from the wine cellars."

Few restaurants can boast 25 years, as many

fall in and out of fashion, change ownership and alter cuisine, but, like a good vintage wine, this diamond in Deal's culinary crown continues to mature and improve.

Having cooked all around the world and for many celebrated guests, Ian has also had

passing through his hands some of Britain's top chefs, including Great British Menu stars Daniel Clifford, of Midsummer House, Cambridge, and Charlie Lakin, Marquis At Alkham head chef.

Ian himself trained as a chef at Thanet Technical College before taking the position of commis chef at Browns Hotel in London's Mayfair, where he really learned his trade.

He said: "The learning cycle of a chef is demanding and uncompromising. You are driven by fear and intimidation from self-acclaimed gods of the kitchen."

"The chef de partie bows to the sous chefs and ultimately the head chef. But the few who survive the early barrage soon enjoy the camaraderie of the kitchen brigade. Hot, intense but passionate about their skills, catering is a way of life, not just a job. Those who treat it as just a job rarely survive."

Aged just 21, Ian took the head-chef position at the popular Woolpack Inn at Chilham. After further successes at The Royal Hotel in Deal and others, Ian and Linda bought the small seafront café Pegasus and started Dunkerley's.

Ten years on, they purchased the Pier Hotel next door and have now developed the buildings into the business that we see now.

Ian and Linda will be having a bash to celebrate their 25 years. Former employees and friends will be invited to join the fun, but the eye will never be taken off the ball for long. "The race for quality has no finish line," said Ian. "Don't ever think you have arrived."

■ **Dunkerley's of Deal, 19 Beach Street, Deal CT14 7AH (phone 01304 375016; website www.dunkerleys.co.uk; email info@dunkerleys.co.uk)**

FOOD & DRINK Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Paolo stirs a culinary ripple across sedate Minnis Bay

LOCATED a stone's throw from Minnis Bay and nestled among its, let's say, more elderly population, new restaurant Paolo's Kitchen has brought a taste of the Mediterranean smack bang to Thanet's coastline.

And while its location may not be in the hub of the town or on the picturesque bay just seconds down the road, it doesn't matter... the food, atmosphere and interior – and exterior, although we'll get to that in a minute – are likely to draw in the crowds and place Paolo's Kitchen among the best of the isle's eateries.

The restaurant itself is cosy, understated and authentic – perhaps owing to the fact that owner and chef Paolo lived and worked in Malta – and the short menu a mix of mouthwatering Mediterranean favourites.

My guest and I ordered a bottle of white wine (£12.90) and the friendly waitress brought out a plate of antipasti – artichoke, bread and haloumi cheese with oil and balsamic vinegar – while we looked at the menu.

For my starter I chose the grilled aubergines in garlic, coriander and olive oil served with a side of natural yoghurt (£4.50), while my companion plumped for calamari fritti in burro (pan-fried calamari in butter) served with parsley, a drizzle of lemon juice and balsamic reduction (£4.50).

I don't eat calamari, but after being tempted

RESTAURANT REVIEW



into trying some of my guest's I gave it a go and it was absolutely delicious.

My aubergine was tasty, light and simple, something you could also imagine eating al fresco with a glass of wine in a sunny courtyard.

Which brings me on to the exterior of Paolo's Kitchen. At the back of the restaurant, patio doors lead out onto a massive area of grassed garden with what looks to be the start of an outside dining area.

If I hadn't been convinced before, I most definitely was then that here was a place likely to rival some of Thanet's favourite restaurants. If we get some of that sunshine we're all craving,

this could become *the* place for alfresco dining.

Moving back to the menu, my guest and I chose our mains, my companion the butterfly chicken breast served on a sizzling clay plate cooked in a brandy and mushroom sauce, with hand-cut chips and Mediterranean vegetables (£13) and me the spinach and ricotta tortellini in butter and a creamy sauce (£9).

My pasta was rich and tasty and my guest's chicken packed with bags of flavour.

For dessert I chose the cheeseboard and was served a selection of delicious and unusual cheeses. My companion chose the lemon cheesecake with a shot of Limoncello on the side.

Our final bill came to £64.

The fresh and tasty food combined with a relaxed atmosphere, the rare appearance of the sunshine outside and a few glasses of wine made us feel like we were on holiday.

And if there's anything that most people fed up with this British weather want right now, it's a holiday. So if you feel like escaping from the mundane for a few hours, Paolo's Kitchen is well worth your consideration.

Marijke Cox

■ Paolo's Kitchen
133 Minnis Road, Birchington CT7 9NS
Telephone 01843 447914

Hamper heralds bright new future for Strood



MORRISONS in Strood now looks a little different as it has been picked as one of only a handful of retail outlets across the UK to receive a 'Store of the Future' revamp.

And with summer picnics just around the corner, it is experimenting with some more exotic products on the shelves – alongside the traditional favourites.

Prickly pears through to Cornish Yarg cheese and Spanish fruit cherimoya can all be found in the shop.

Other delights include rambutans – hairy, spiky fruits straight from Ecuador that can be used in cocktails or tropical fruit salads or reduced down to make a simple syrup – and jelly nuts, sourced in Costa Rica and also known as young coconuts.

Beetroot houmous is a twist on a classic favourite; the beetroot creates a colourful houmous with a sweet and earthy taste.

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YOUR WEEKEND

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Knight fever Try your skills during battle

Leeds Castle, Maidstone
Sat and Sun, June 23-24
01622 735616
www.leeds-castle.com

RAISE your swords and prepare to do battle at the Leeds Castle Knight School. On the weekend of June 23-24, youngsters will have the chance to try on replica

medieval armour, helmets, breastplates, chainmail and gauntlets before battle. They can have a lesson in medieval swordsmanship and participate in a fun recreation of the Battle of Agincourt. This will be a riot of family fun that will allow you to get your hands on history. Those with the year-long Key To The Castle pass can access the event for free. Standard tickets cost £19.75 for adults, £17.50 for seniors and visitors with disabilities (carer goes free) and £12.50 for children (under-fours free).

Coppice week Learn the craft of years past

Godinton House, Ashford
Sun to Thu, June 10-14
01233 643854
godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

GODINTON House and Gardens is hosting the third annual Coppice Week this month, with the UK's most experienced craftsmen running parkland courses. You can learn to carve a spoon or make a hurdle or even a greenwood chair as beginners experience the basic crafts. There will also be something more advanced for those who have already begun learning this outdoor skill. The relaxed atmosphere will take you back to the old world of coppice-workers camping in the woodland. Courses range from one to three days, with skilled teachers such as Alan Sage making chestnut gate hurdles, Sean Hellman and his east European fan birds and Richard Hobbs with an Introduction To Bent Hazel Chairs.



Expect the moonlight Toploader are back!

The Central Theatre, Chatham
Friday, July 6, at 7.30pm
01634 338338
www.whatsonmedway.co.uk

THE group who once had the whole world up on their feet every time the words Dancing In The Moonlight were uttered are returning to tour the UK ahead of their new album. That's right, Toploader have returned to the music scene, having finished their latest work with the guidance of Morrissey and Coldplay producer Danton Supple. Famous for songs such as Achilles Heel, released from monster-selling album Onka's Big Moka, the Eastbourne-based group had previously gone triple-platinum before a hiatus. The boys aim to return to form this time round. Tickets are priced from £13.50-£15.

The Voice pair head for home Matt and Sueleen

Marlowe Studio, Canterbury
Friday, June 22, at 8pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

MATT and Sueleen, stars of BBC One's The Voice, will be playing their home-town gig when they appear at the Marlowe Studio this month. The Canterbury folk-singers

narrowly missed out on a semi-final place on the popular reality show and have gained some notoriety with their upbeat live performances.

The pair were coached by Welsh singing legend Tom Jones before being voted off the show. Jones praised the couple for a range of quality performances, saying their harmonies were some of the best he had ever heard.

Tickets for the Studio gig are priced at £8 (£10 on the door) and are on sale now.

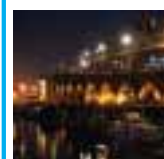


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YOUR WEEKEND

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features@kosmedia.co.uk



Stand, deliver and gig Adam Ant party time

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford

Sunday, July 15
01322 220000

www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

THE king of the wild frontier returns to Kent as Adam Ant brings his much-talked-about tour to Dartford's Orchard theatre.

The 80s New Wave-style icon will swashbuckle his way to the county next month and tickets are expected to sell fast.

Along with The Good, The Mad And The Lovely Posse, Adam (aka Stuart Goddard) will bring his hits as well as new material to the show.

Any 80s party would not be complete without songs such as Stand And Deliver, Ant Music and Prince Charming, showing how Antmusic made his mark on the world.

This show has been described as amazing, colourful and theatrical... don't miss it!

Armour, relics and barbecue Dads' delight

**Chiddingstone Castle,
Edenbridge**

Saturday, June 17
01892 870347

CHIDDINGSTONE Castle will have everything any dad could want on Father's Day weekend.

The rooms display the exquisite collections of the

castle's last owner, the late Denys Eyre Bower. His collections include his Japanese swords and armour and many intriguing items recovered from the tombs of the Ancient Egyptian pharaohs. You can see Buddhist and Stuart antiquities and paintings as well as Jacobite treasures, including the blood, hair, heart and garter ribbon of James II. For refreshments, try out the local Larkin's Ale and an all-day BBQ. There'll also be fun activities for youngsters. See www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk for more details.



Royal visitor to share his art Craft show

Quex Park, Birchington

Sat and Sun, June 16-17

01843 823 307

www.midasleisure.co.uk

THE Midas Leisure Grand Craft And Gift Show heads to Quex Park next weekend, with royalty expected to visit. Prince Abimbola Olaniran will be exhibiting artwork from his Nigerian homeland with a friend, having contributed hugely to the development and promotion of arts there. There are expected to be more than 40 stalls ranging from photography, handcrafted soaps, cards, quilts and towels, jewellery and fudge and nappy and towel cakes to accessories for the home like fused glass, doorstops and cushions. You can have a go at crafting yourself, with the regulars from Quex Craft Village showing how it's all done. There will be a barbecue and a beer tent, with other refreshments served in the shack.



A taste of our tuneful future Musical youth

St George's Church, Deal

Saturday, June 30

01622 691212

www.kent-music.com

KENT County Youth Orchestra has announced that it will be performing at the Deal Festival Of Music And Arts this year. Some of the county's most

talented young musicians can rub shoulders with artists from around the globe at the festival, which runs from Friday, June 29, to Sunday, July 8. At St George's Church, High Street, Deal, the group will play Dvorak's epic Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky's passionate Sixth Symphony. The church grounds open at 6.30pm for pre-concert drinks. Tickets are £15, £13 for Deal Friends and £7.50 for students, available from the Deal Festival Of Music And Arts box office on 01304 370220 or online at www.theastor.org.

A KENTISH CEREMONY

www.akentishceremony.com



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YOUR WEEKEND

To be included on this page, please email
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Hear the siren Air-raid days on the cliffs

Dover Castle

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01304 211 067
www.english-heritage.org.uk

VISITORS to Dover Castle on the first Friday of every month will be able to see an original Second World War Morrison air-raid shelter, part of a new Home Front Exhibition. As a wartime wireless plays music and makes public-announcement broadcasts, visitors will be able to find out about Morrison and Anderson shelters and pinpoint the public shelters around Dover on maps and photographs. There will be information and exhibits on the volunteer services in the area, including Air Raid Precaution Wardens and Home Front troops, plus original bandages donated by the family of a nurse who worked at Hothfield Hospital, near Ashford. Youngsters will be kept on their toes with children's drills and the chance to discover if service life is for them.



Art in Medway comes of age A mean scene

Nucleus Arts, Chatham Art Centre

Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8
www.nucleus-arts.com

TAKE a peek into the heart of Medway's creative and artistic hub with an open-house event at Chatham Art Centre. As part of the Medway Open Studio And Arts Festival, the

centre will be showing off the area's leading artists. Exhibitors range from painters and photographers to sculptors and jewellers, with everything in between, offering the highest-quality work to view and gifts to buy. With more than 30 of Medway's top creatives in one room, this is an event that arts fans will not want to miss. Chatham Art Centre and studios will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8, from 10am-6pm. The Nucleus café will be open both days for refreshments.

What's all the buzz about? Bee happy!

Dungeness nature reserve

Until Sunday, June 10
01797 320588
dungeness@rspb.org.uk

FOLLOWING on from the reintroduction of the short-haired bumblebee at the Dungeness RSPB nature reserve and despite some very wet weather, visitors have

been buzzing along to the site's Bee Fest. Families joined in bee walks and made bee homes and the bee trail and quiz to celebrate this iconic British insect. Activities continue until Sunday, June 10, with a range of events including walks and talks. There is also the chance to buy identification guides, wildflower seeds to attract bees to your gardens and other gifts. Look out for Julibee, the special queen bee who will be appearing at events on the Marsh throughout summer.



Irony meets pop-ska Reel Big Fish

Quarterhouse, Folkestone

Sunday, August 12, at 7.30pm
01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

REEL Big Fish were one of the southern Californian ska-punk bands to edge into the mainstream in the mid-90s following No Doubt. Like many of their peers, the band were distinguished by their hyper stage shows, juvenile humour and ironic covers of pop-ska. The group, who will appear at Folkestone's Quarterhouse as part of this summer's Skabour Festival, had an underground following before breaking into the mainstream in 1997 when their single Sell Out became an MTV favorite. Their appearance in the movie Basketball also gained them more fans. Fronted by lead singer Aaron Barrett, they continue to release albums and tour the world relentlessly.

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Evoque now in vogue as Range Rover makes its 4x4 mark

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EURO might be a flaky word at present, either when applied to the currency or to England's football prospects at Euro 2012.

But it has solidity when talking about the second-generation Kia Ceed.

The original Ceed arrived in the UK just five years ago and transformed how the Korean brand was perceived here.

Conceived and built in Europe and the pioneer for Kia's incredible worry-free seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, it closed up on established Western stars like the Vauxhall Astra, Ford Focus and VW Golf.

But Ceed generation two (from £14,395) is in among the leaders. It's no surprise to learn that the newcomer was benchmarked in particular against the VW Golf.

It can't quite match the Golf for the driving experience, but the car's style inside and out eclipses its German rival while taking note of its best features; the dashboard is a fine example, with all the functionality of the VW but also lots of added flair. The refinement and feeling of solidity is also Golf-like.

The exterior is arguably the finest so far from the team under Kia's German design-meister Peter Schreyer – the man who penned the original Audi TT.

He arrived at Kia just as the first Ceed went into production but has since junked the brand's old 'neutral look' for a new image epitomised by the 'Tiger nose' corporate grille.

I particularly like the new Ceed's classy wraparound headlamps with integrated LED running lights.

And while I might nigger about the quality of the seat finish on mid-range Ceed 2 (from £16,395) models I tested – I'm sure an equivalent Golf is better-trimmed – the fully-specc'd flagship Ceed 4 (from £20,595) I drove certainly redressed the balance.

As ever, though, Kia price and spec overall leaves most opposition standing, while the powertrains underline Kia's progress in just a few years.

There are petrol and diesel units in 1.4- and 1.6-litre capacities, but I was only able to test the latter, which dominate the range anyway.

The 1.6 diesel is far superior in refinement, energy and economy, but the direct-injection low-emission petrol makes a good fist of it and is cheaper by £1,100 – low-mileage users may feel it's the better buy.

All manual 1.6 engines also get Kia's eco-friendly ISG package, but the 1.6 petrol is currently the only one to get Kia's new slick twin-clutch DCT auto gearbox to rival that of the Golf.

An SW or estate is due later this year, with the prospect of a racy three-door Proceeed follow-up. With the fluid lines of the five-door to draw upon, surely this will be offered with a Golf GTI-rivalling halo model for the Ceed range and Kia as a whole?



KIA CEED

Price:

£14,395

Driving appeal:

★★★★★

Image:

★★★★★

Space:

★★★★★

Value:

★★★★★

Running costs:

★★★★★

Reliability:

★★★★★

How green?:

★★★★★

Best rival:

VW Golf

Second-generation Ceed shows quite how quickly Kia has grown



MAKING AN IMPACT: Kia, the Korean car-manufacturer, continues to impress with its cars, none more so than the second-generation Ceed, which is now a serious rival to more established names such as VW Golf, Vauxhall Astra and the Ford Focus

DON'T LIKE

... some penny-pinching on the Ceed 2 seats, but then this version does come with a cracking spec including alloys, cruise control *etc etc*.

NOT SURE

... the Kia badge can yet threaten VW, but the Koreans must be worrying Ford and Vauxhall and really scaring the French and Japanese.

REALLY LIKE

... how Kia always looks to improve. Criticisms of the previous Ceed were promptly addressed and the new car is a huge step forward from there.

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MOTORING

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Vogue for Evoque buoys up Range Rover's distinctive 4x4

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LAND Rover and Jaguar sales are on the march again, inspired by desirable and distinctive products – exactly what established these sister brands in the first place.

In Jaguar's case, the new impetus comes from the award-winning XF saloon – soon to be joined by a stylish Sportbrake estate.

Meanwhile, Land Rover has caught public imagination and sales with its newly-launched junior Range Rover, the Evoque.

And it really does evoke: thoughts of Range Rovers past and present helped by that chunky front end; arguments about whether the front-wheel-drive version is a proper Range Rover; or whether to have the five-door or the almost ridiculously rakish three-door coupé.

It certainly gets me ranting, since it's not my cup of tea to look at, but then I think most of its rivals look drab.

Anyway, I'm out of step with the hordes who want to buy or wish they could afford one, and I can't argue that it's terrific to be in and great for UK exports.

And I won't dispute the thinking behind the front-wheel-drive version, either, even though 4x4 purists will 'evoke' colourful metaphors as to why this is a bad thing.

Fact is, the great 4x4 fad has been more about image than true off-roading and the penny has dropped with most buyers that they are spending more than necessary on fuel, tyres and wear and tear if they buy a true 4x4 that rarely gets its feet muddy.

So a front-wheel-drive, fuel-efficient option makes sense and is recruiting many new buyers to the RR brand who see 'urban runabout' etched into the Evoque's chunky profile as much as 'country wagon'.

Many are also women, who maybe don't like their other half's bulky Range Rover Sport or Land Rover 'Disco' but still want the country-set

RANGE ROVER EVOQUE PURE COUPÉ eD4 2.2: PRICE £28,950



Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Road tax: £90 (zero year one)
Best rival: Audi Q3

Kent dealers:
Barretts Land Rover
 Ashford 01233 506070
 Canterbury 01227 475475
Harwoods
 Tonbridge 01732 353637
 Edenbridge w01732 863303

BETTER BY DESIGN:

Land Rover has caught the public's imagination with its newly-launched junior Range Rover, the Evoque, which not only looks good but is fun to drive

image or even something that really can walk the talk – as the Evoque really does in 4x4 form.

I proved the point when driving various Evoques across moorlands, rutted tracks and cloying mud in Scotland and proving that it is worthy of the Range Rover badge.

It's easy and comfortable to drive off-road and the trademark icon-driven Land/Range Rover terrain selector makes it simple to be in the right mode for particular conditions.

And it's pretty sharp on-road, too; though relatively high, the chassis is set up to give a flat cornering stance without body-roll, yet ride comfort is surprisingly good for a car with such composure.

I've since also driven a front-wheel-drive eco-friendly eD4 (£28,950) that is also the Evoque entry model.

Powered by a smooth 150bhp 2.2-litre diesel with six-speed gearbox, this version will hit 60mph in a respectable 10.6 seconds.

Importantly, though, for those checking the brand for the first time, it should also average almost 60mpg.

Helped by a stop/start system that cuts in and out in heavy traffic or jams, it also emits just 129g/km of CO₂, so it's exempt from road tax in year one and liable for £90/year thereafter – not bad for an SUV.

It certainly feels lighter on its feet than the 4x4 and just as much fun to drive, so those who simply want the Evoque look are not missing out, and the cabin is stunning even on this entry model.

I prefer the five-door model, though; the test car was a coupé and I was struck by the poor visibility for rear passengers and for the driver through that letterbox rear screen.

And I'm no fan of the huge barn-door mirrors it wears, either; the 2008 concept car wore minimalist ones that didn't make it to the production car.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Big cat purrs for customers

JAGUAR has ended an 11-year reign by Lexus as best manufacturer in the demanding JD Power and Associates/What Car? customer satisfaction survey.

Cars are rated in four key areas: vehicle appeal, quality and reliability, ownership costs and dealer service.

Best car in the 2012 survey was the Kia Sportage SUV, with the Jaguar XF executive saloon, pictured, adjudged runner-up.



300C is better than before

CHRYSLER'S all-new second-generation 300C arrives in showrooms this week.

While it revives the retro look of the original – now seen as a motoring icon – the Fiat-owned American marque says the newcomer is better built, safer, even more lavishly equipped and more efficient than its predecessor.

Power comes from a new 3.0-litre V6 turbodiesel and prices start at just £35,995.



Gran Coupé has 6 appeal

BMW has followed in the footsteps of Mercedes-Benz and its CLS model by launching a four-door coupé this month.

The elegant new Gran Coupé (from £61,390) joins the existing two-door Coupé and Convertible models in the BMW 6 Series line-up but has been created on a stretched wheelbase to boost cabin space. One diesel and two petrol engines are offered.

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0843 320 1667



www.kentskoda.co.uk

***Citigo S starts from £7,630 OTR. Model shown is a Citigo SE 1.0 60PS 5spd Manual including optional metallic paint, Style Pack 2 and Winter Pack - £10,190. Price is correct at time of going to print. Image shown is left hand drive.**

****3 years or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes first). Terms and Conditions apply. Available when purchased with Solutions. 7.9% APR representative. Available on new retail orders subject to availability before 30th September 2012. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status and availability. Available for over 18s only. Excludes the Channel Islands. ŠKODA Finance. Freepost ŠKODA Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at anytime and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. †For full competition terms and conditions visit www.citigofromskoda.co.uk/sherlodge-garage/tandcs**

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Citigo: Urban 50.4 (5.6) – 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 62.8 (4.5) – 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ emissions for the Citigo 105-96 g/km.

MOTORING

Visit carsforkent.co.uk

Jetta diverting from the Golf course

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GOLFS are hot – Jetta's are not. Quite simply, the booted VW Golf has never been as popular as its hatchback sister.

VW tried changing its identity to Vento but got the wind up and went for Bora instead – a real shot in the foot – before reverting to Jetta with a sort of shrugged 'OK, you got me bang to rights'.

Not that you'd expect Jetta-owners to be so colloquial; their car has the blandest of images here, even if it's increasingly hard to see why.

Fact: the Jetta is huge in the US and catching on fast in the Far East.

Fact: Britain is in the fierce grip of downsizing, driven by economic and ecological necessity.

Fact: the VW badge sits somewhere between mainstream and premium, and buyers in the latter category prefer saloons to hatchbacks.

Fact: the Jetta is a decent product at a sensible price (from £17,165) and no longer simply a booted Golf. A wheelbase almost three inches longer gives it a cabin comparable to cars from the class above, such as VW's bulkier Passat.

The Jetta cabin is also typically VW, but not completely Golf, and it does have almost the same taut handling of what is now a half-sister rather than a full-blooded sibling.

Drive one for a few days as I did, and the smooth-riding car gets under the skin with its ability to please in most situations, a bit like a favourite pair of shoes... not slippers, I hasten to add.

MINI ROAD TEST VW JETTA SE 1.6 TDI 105 PS BLUEMOTION TECHNOLOGY: PRICE £19,960



Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£20 (zero year one)
Best rival:	Volvo S40

Kent dealers:
Motorline
 Tunbridge Wells 0844 8227217
JCB
 Ashford 01233 504300
 Gillingham 01634 378988
EuroCanterbury
 Canterbury 01227 826800

But as you complete your unruffled journey and get out, you note again that the exterior is unexceptional, so avoid default company-car choices – silver, gunmetal or, as in the case of the road-test car, metallic light blue – and go for black or red and leave it dirty.

VW seems to know it's pushing its luck with the Jetta at present; it could offer a glittering array of fine powertrains and glamorise the lineup with a turbocharged GTI, but the German marque tried that once a long time ago...

So there is a small sober-suited selection of tax-efficient, low CO₂ yet flexible engines capable of pleasing most company-car user-choosers and the occasional private buyer, and all available with VW's smooth-shifting seven-speed auto/manual DSG gearbox (from £19,930) as well as crisp standard five- and six-speed manuals.

There are two versions of VW's lively turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol unit (120 and 158bhp), a 138bhp 2.0-litre performance diesel and a 103bhp 1.6-litre BlueMotion Technology eco

diesel, as tested here. The 1.6 diesel is a low-tax all-rounder for the Jetta that is capable of averaging almost 70mpg but also reasonably lively if you decide to cast off the Jetta's sober image.

BlueMotion Technology brings low-rolling resistance tyres, battery regeneration via braking and auto stop/start for the engine to cut emissions in heavy traffic or jams.

But we may need a rebirth of the Jetta GTI before the 'booted Golf' roars from the shadow of its hatchback sister.

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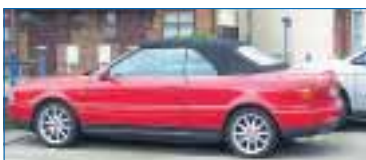
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2002 LEXUS IS200 MANUAL Met Blue, every luxury extra, new alloys, service history.....	£2,995
2004 FORD KA COLLECTION Gold with grey patterned trim, e/w, PAS, in lovely condition.....	£2,495
2002 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO SX 1.6 PETROL Manual, Metallic Silver, all usual refi.....	£2,195
2003 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 5-dr Hatchback, Blue, 88,000 miles, lovely condition and low tax and insurance.....	£2,195
1999 AUDI A3 1.8 3DR Hatchback, All usual refinements, rarely available, in Silver, with Blue trim, alloys.....	£1,995
2003 FIAT PUNTO, Yellow, 1.2 Sport hatch, immaculate condition, group 4 insurance and cheap road tax.....	£1,995
2002 CITROEN C5 2.0 DIESEL Manual, 5-dr Hatchback, Black, low tax group + 50+ MPG.....	£1,995
2001 JAGUAR 3.0 V6 SPORT AUTO, Grey with Black leather trim, alloys, personal plate.....	£1,995
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2002 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 3 1.8 AUTOMATIC, only 27,000 miles from new.....	£1,895
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2000 FORD COUGAR 2.5 AUTO 3-dr Hatchback, Silver, alloys, luxury black leather trim, top range car, taxed and MoT.....	£1,495

1997 AUDI A6 2.4 Saloon, manual, Metallic Grey with alloys, leather trim, luxury at only.....	£1,495
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2000 TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 3-dr, Red, low tax and insurance model.....	£1,295
1997 SAAB 900 SE TURBO 4-dr Hatchback, Silver, 1 years MOT.....	£995
2001 FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX 5-dr Hatchback, new shape, Silver, manual, MoT.....	£895
1999 ROVER 200 Vi 1.8 5-dr Hatch, Silver, tax and.....	£895
1996 VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.7 DIESEL 4-dr Saloon, Blue, 1 owner last 12 years, Tax and Test.....	£495

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Sport

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CRICKET

It all still rings a bell for county's fanatical curator

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

KENT Cricket Club's curator David Robertson claims his memory is not what it used to be, yet in the blink of an eye he casually reels off the day he fell in love with his home county side.

It was July 1946 when Kent were playing Middlesex at The Mote in Maidstone, and Dennis Compton scored a century as the visitors were all out for 487.

A little over a year later and he had his first junior membership at the St Lawrence Ground at the age of 14.

And so it's the icing on the cake that 66 years on from his first encounter with Kent that Mr Robertson is starting his 13th year looking after the club's historical treasures which he does alongside his role as a bell ringer at his local church in Sandwich.

"If anyone had said to me on retirement to draw up a list of things to do voluntarily, this would have been top of the list," he said.

"I'm in my 13th year now, and it's been a most rewarding experience.

"It's something that I wouldn't have missed for the world, my great passion has been Kent cricket and it takes prominence for me over England."

It was at the invitation of the Kent committee that Mr Robertson took over after eminent cricket journalist Jim Swanton retired from the role.

Mr Robertson helped him research his final book 'Cricketers of My Time: Heroes to Remember' before taking up the post.

"He asked me if I would like to help him with his final book, that really was an experience of a lifetime," he said.

"My immediate role was to go through with him all his press cuttings, mainly obituaries and so on.

"He asked me to select 140 cricketers and whittle it down, I was given responsibility for compiling all the statistical information."

He soon swapped one set of statistics for another after getting the call to join as the honorary curator while on his way home from the memorable Cricket World Cup semi-final between Australia and South Africa in 1999.

"Our archive includes score books from the mid 19th century, and there are some wonderful stories that could be told," he said.

But statistics were nothing new for the former Labour Party political organiser, who as well as having a substantial collection of cricket memorabilia at his home, also has a record of political results.

He said: "My memory is nothing like as good as it used to be. But I've always been interested in statistics including those that related to my work as well. I have a passionate interest in elections.

"I have a quite substantial cricket collection, and a collection of The Times guides to the House of Commons. I've got them going back to 1929. Every result in every constituency in every General Election. I often look at those; it's a fascination I have.

"I do have to refer more and more to books now, than was the case. By and large I like to think I've still got the enthusiasm."

Although he has a passion for politics and his gardening, it's the action at the St Lawrence Ground that takes priority, and luckily match times fit in with his bell ringing rota ensuring he never misses a ball.

Picture: ADY KERRY



DAVID ROBERTSON'S TOP FIVE FROM KENT'S COLLECTION

- 1) The ball which legendary bowler 'Titch' Freeman took his 300th wicket, all achieved in one season in 1928.
- 2) Colin Cowdrey's silver cap representing his 100th appearance for England.
- 3) The bat that was owned by bowler Colin Blythe, who batted so rarely that he used the same one throughout his whole career.
- 4) A set of silver cuff links given to Frank Woolley after the 1909 championship win.
- 5) A scorebook detailing the first ever triple hundred to be scored in the game, achieved by WG Grace at the St Lawrence Ground for the MCC against Kent in 1876 when he hit 344.

And the more bizarre...

"We have got in our collection what's described as a notched score stick. Runs scored used to be recorded by someone carving a notch on a stick.

"Written in ink across it is something in Latin which I've never had translated, that really is quite a bizarre thing. Unfortunately the ink is very faded and difficult to read.

"The other thing we have is from the Sydney Cricket Ground which in the 1930s was covered in what's known as bulli soil, when it got wet it formed itself into lumps.

"When Leslie Ames toured Australia in 1930s he brought back a piece of this bulli soil, and it really is like a lump of coal."



FESTIVAL: Minis new and old to grace Brands Hatch weekend

MOTORSPORT

Former champion Curley set to go full circle after ten year absence

TWO-TIME Mini Miglia champion Ian Curley is set to get back behind the wheel of the car he enjoyed so much success with for the first time in ten years at Brands Hatch next weekend.

The 39-year-old from Yalding, won back-to-back championships in 1998 and 1999, as well as a category seven Mini championship in 1994, and after a period of growing up he will return at the circuit's Mini Festival.

After leaving the Mini circuit in 2002, he went on to race in the British Touring Car Championships before calling it a day in 2007.

But he admits his career was never over, just on a break.

"I have never really made a conscious decision to stop racing," he said. "In 2007 I got married, and I was fortunate enough to be in a position where I could build my own

house, we had a couple of kids which is massively time consuming, I never ever realised how much time they demanded.

"Life changed for a bit, work got busy and I grew up."

Getting back behind the wheel competitively is sure to be a test for Curley who is waiting for his Mini to come to the country from Germany this week where it is in action.

"The car is racing in Germany before the festival meeting, so it's got to come back from Germany, and we need to fit the six valve engine, once that's done it will be ready for Brands," he said.

"I'm looking forward to it, it's only one race, I'm probably not fit enough, but I won't be able to do a lot in the next week.

"There's nothing to get too stressed about."

He has had his eye on returning for a

little while, but it was just a coincidence that Brands Hatch was the next race on the calendar, and even more so considering it was where he made his debut in 1992.

"It was just luck, the car was ready, we were ready and Brands Hatch was the race to do, it didn't matter where it was, we would have done it," he said.

But while he is happy to be back, the idea of becoming a touring car driver again is less appealing.

He said: "If you could ever secure the funding, you would always want to do it, it's one of the best touring car championships in the world, but you have got to have the right car, the right management, and the right team, otherwise it's just a weekend of stress."

The Mini Festival takes place at Brands Hatch on June 16-17.

DARTS

Ranking points to attract star players to classic

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE Sheppey Darts Classic returns next week and the organiser is hoping it will be bigger and better than ever with £7,000 prize money up for grabs.

It's the tenth year that the event will take place, and since its inception organiser Tony Cox has strived to attract top players with the promise of BDO points at stake, and this year he has pulled it off for the first time.

Among the top names set to feature at the Merlins Complex in Leysdown will be Kent star Steve Douglas, who is currently 11th in the BDO Men's Invitation rankings, and former World Matchplay winner Peter Evison.

Cox said that support from pro and semi-pro players has helped boost the prestige of the event.

"This year for the first time we have got BDO ranking points on it," he said. "It makes a big difference, it's taken ten years to get them.

"We do a £7,000 prize fund which is more than a lot of the BDO events. We have been pushing for it, and luckily we managed to get it.

"We are going to get a lot of the BDO players looking to get a few points.

"And that means we've got a lot of the ranked players, so it's going to be pretty good, we have got more entries at the moment than we have had at this stage in any other year."

He said in recent years the prize money has been affected by the world financial crisis, but it has been given more support this year.



Pictures: TONY COX

SIGNED UP: Peter Mitchell, left, and Steve Douglas, right will be at the Sheppey Classic

He said: "Every year it has gone from strength to strength. This year is going to be the best, this year we have got walk on girls like they have on television, it's the little things that are going to make it."

The winners will receive invitations to the

2012 Winmau World Masters and the International Play-Offs for the 2013 Lakeside World Professional.

Entry forms will be accepted on the day, but preferably completed beforehand. Forms can be downloaded from www.sheppeydarts.com.

CRICKET ROUND-UP



Gore Court stay top despite loss

A FIVE wicket haul from Mohammed Aranpana couldn't guide Gore Court to victory over Dartford in Division Two.

Gore Court won the toss and decided to bat, and made 154 for 7, with Richard Cooper top scoring on 43.

In reply, Dartford reached 155 for 6 in 40 overs, thanks to 68 from Kevin Webb, despite impressive bowling from Mohammed Aranpana who took 5-23.

In Division Five, Bapchild were thrashed by eight wickets after being put into bat by Offham.

They made 139 all out with Joe Mills top scoring on 23. Offham reached their target in 30 overs with the loss of two wickets as Tom (55) and Ben Gittings (62) guided them to victory.

In Division Four, Minster took on Sidcup and won by 80 runs. Virenda Vegda hit 89 to put Minster in a commanding position as they made 272 for 9.

In reply Sidcup put up a fight thanks to Ian Bryce's 84, but their middle order crumbled under pressure from the Minster bowlers who were all on form as James White and Najib Khan took three each.

In the second Division Four clash, Rodmersham took on Cowdrey and lost by seven wickets.

Rodmersham won the toss and elected to bat, with Matthew Godden top scoring on 45 as they made 196 all out.

Cowdrey's reply never looked in doubt as Jack Southwart hit 52, and Glen Warner led them to victory with 41 not out.

MOTORSPORT

Hungary Doran to get back on track after last lap crash

RALLYCROSS racer Liam Doran is hoping to recover in time from his crash in Hungary to compete at the Global Rallycross Championship this weekend.

The Sittingbourne driver slammed into a concrete wall on the last lap of the A final in the latest round of the European Rallycross Championship last weekend.

He has had little time to recover from the incident however, as he is lined up to take part in the Global Rallycross Championship event at the Texas Motor Speedway tomorrow.

He will be racing a Citroen C4 Supercar similar to the one he was so successful with winning the X Games last summer.

Doran, who races for Monster Energy in his Citroen DS3 Supercar, was embroiled in a battle for fourth place and looked good to finish there after passing Davy Jeanney and Alexander Hvaal in a single move.

But Hvaal counter challenged and Doran's car crashed off into the wall lining the side of the track on the final lap.



FIT: Doran back in action tomorrow

Doran was taken to hospital for precautionary checks after the crash but discharged later that evening. The crash left him classified sixth in the event and second in the championship in which he is the only driver to have qualified for the A final in each of the four rounds run to date.

Setting top five times throughout the weekend, Doran simultaneously progressed through the event smoothly and continued the ongoing development of his new car.

FOOTBALL

Ward brothers unveil new skipper with Pettit signing

SITTINGBOURNE joint boss Danny Ward has hailed new signing Simon Pettit as the perfect captain to lead the side.

Midfielder Pettit finally put pen to paper this week to once again link up with Jim and Danny Ward having played for the pair at Ramsgate.

It's the first of a few signings that Danny has targeted in the major revamp of the squad following a season in which Sittingbourne struggled in the Ryman One South.

Six players with Ryman level experience have been in contact with the club and are expected to be a part of pre-season training in a few weeks time in a bid to earn a deal, while there may be more arriving next week if meetings go to plan.

Danny was pleased to capture 25-year-old Pettit who he has known since his days as reserve team manager at Ramsgate.

He said: "Simon's been with me since I was reserve team manager at Ramsgate, he's excellent in the changing room.

"He followed us from Ramsgate to Maidstone after that and came

Picture: DAVE STEWART



CAPTAIN: Pettit to lead Bricks

back to Ramsgate again.

"He has enthusiasm for football, and life and everything that goes with it, he's the perfect match.

"We know what we are getting from him. He's got a long throw, he's an attacking midfielder, or he can also do the holding job as a defensive midfielder.

"I like my captains to be in the middle of the pitch, he fits the criteria well."

KENT CRICKET LEAGUES

DIVISION TWO

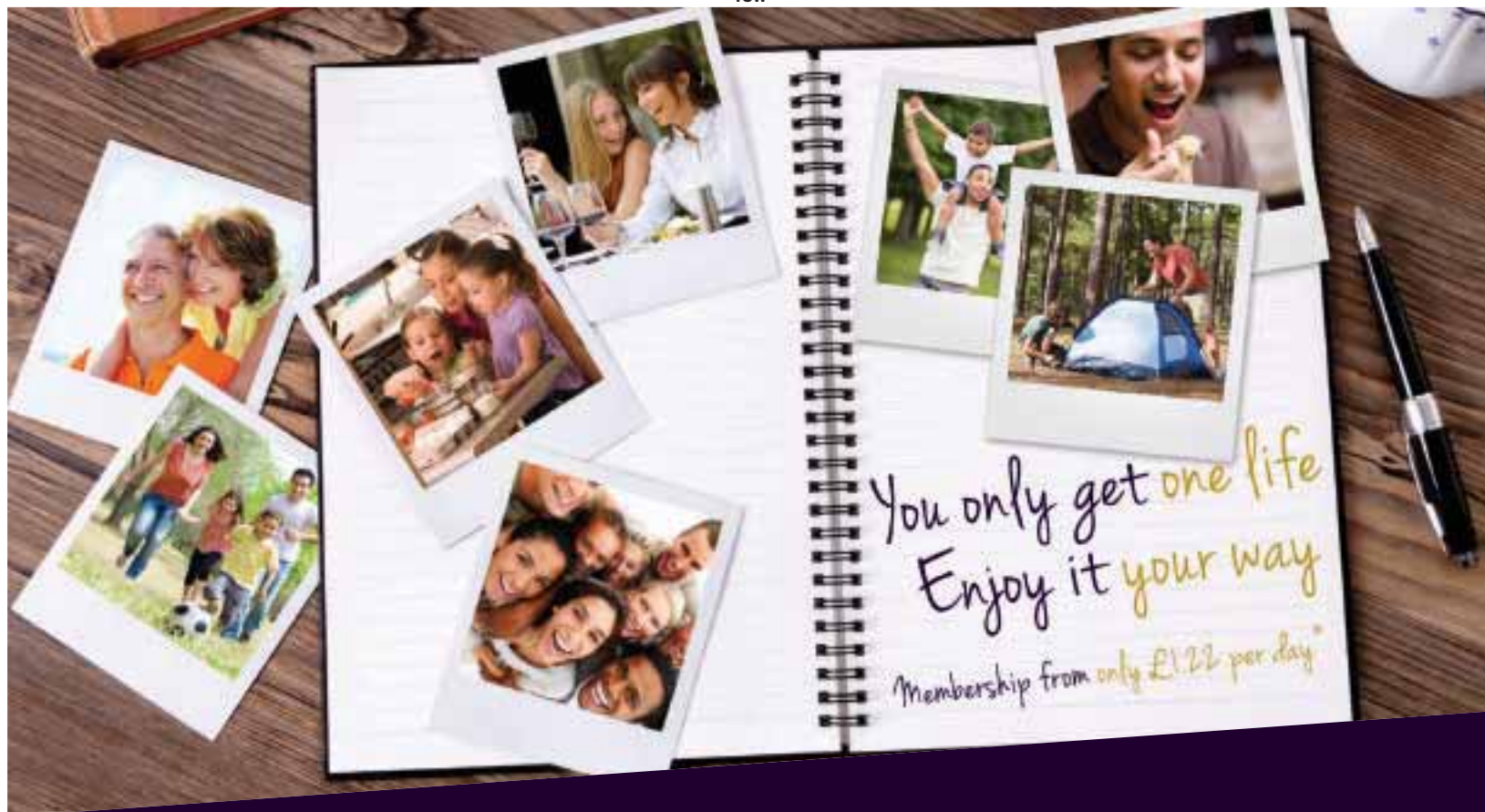
	P	W	WD	BatP	BowlP	Pts
Gore Court.....	5	3	0	2	2	72
Linden Park.....	5	3	0	2	2	72
Bromley Common.....	5	3	0	0	4	68
Catford and Cyphers.....	5	3	0	0	4	68
Upchurch.....	5	2	1	8	8	54
Ashford Town.....	5	1	0	4	5	41
Gravesend.....	5	1	0	3	9	40
Hayes (Kent).....	5	0	1	7	10	39
Dartford.....	5	1	0	5	9	38
HSBC, Kent.....	5	0	1	6	14	26

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	WD	BatP	BowlP	Pts
Macknade.....	5	3	0	2	4	70
Sidcup.....	5	2	1	7	7	68
Minster (Sheppey).....	5	2	0	4	7	59
Nonington.....	5	3	0	1	1	58
Betteshanger Colliery.....	5	2	0	0	4	56
Cowdrey.....	5	2	0	4	4	52
Gravesend RF.....	5	1	1	6	9	45
Rainham (Kent).....	5	1	0	6	7	41
Bexleyheath.....	5	1	0	4	8	36
Rodmersham.....	5	0	0	7	8	31

DIVISION FIVE

	P	W	WD	BatP	BowlP	Pts
OD CUAOC.....	5	4	0	0	0	80
Chislehurst & West Kent.....	5	2	0	0	3	64
Offham.....	5	3	0	1	2	63
Bapchild.....	5	2	1	5	3	54
RACS.....	5	2	0	2	3	45
Bromley Town.....	5	1	0	3	5	44
Deal Victoria.....	5	1	0	5	6	35
Blackheath.....	5	1	0	5	4	33
Bickley Park.....	5	0	1	5	5	32
Wickham Park.....	5	0	0	5	6	19



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